



# 7,000 JOBS FOR NEW DY5 ZONE

Report by Peter Madeley

**A MULTI-MILLION pound enterprise zone in Brierley Hill that will see 7,000 jobs created has been given the go-ahead by the Government.**

The sprawling development in Brierley Hill includes plans for improved transport links and is expected to see £589 million ploughed into the region's economy each year.

It will occupy around 700,000sqm of land at Blackbrook Valley industrial estate and Pensnett and will also offer high-tech office space in the Waterfront complex.

Announcing the scheme at Waterfront West, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Sajid Javid said it forms a key part of the Government's efforts to 'fire up the Midlands Engine'.

"I've seen for myself the real potential this site has and with cutting edge office facilities it will help attract the brightest and best of industry," said the Communities Secretary, who is also MP for Bromsgrove.

The site has been formally named DY5 - Dudley's Business and Innovation Enterprise Zone, and work is expected to start there in April.

Mr Javid added: "This is going to make a big difference. Local people here have fought really hard to get this enterprise zone. It means it will attract lots more businesses to come to Dudley and to the Black Country and create lots more jobs, especially in high-tech manufacturing."

## Advanced

Bosses at Dudley Council say the enterprise zone will become the high tech office hub of the region's industry, connecting advanced manufacturing to industrial sites via new Midland Metro links.

It will also see 18,000sqm of vacant office space reoccupied, along with the creation of new plots for manufacturing and technology firms.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council and vice-chair of the West Midlands Combined Authority, said: "Our new enterprise zone will put Brierley Hill, the borough and the wider region on the national and international map as a place to come and do business and thrive."

"The zone will demonstrate our ingenuity and ability to breathe new life into businesses and support our ethos - Made in the Black Country, sold around the world."

## STUART USES PEDAL POWER TO COMBAT CANCER



Geared up - Stuart Henley from Halesowen is cycling 145 miles in the 'Football to Amsterdam' ride for prostate cancer charities

AN epic bicycle ride lies ahead for a Halesowen councillor who is planning to pedal 145-miles to Amsterdam in aid of prostate cancer research.

Councillor Stuart Henley is embarking on the challenging trip with his best friend, Bill Campbell, which will see them cycle from Yorkshire to Amsterdam in two days.

Councillor Henley is undertaking the challenge in order to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK. The charity was chosen as his father-in-law is battling the disease.

The aim is to raise £1,000 for the charity.

Councillor Henley said: "Bill talked me into joining him on the ride after a few beers, even though I haven't actually properly ridden a bike in around five years."

"I had a prostate cancer scare a few years ago too so I'm doing the ride to try and raise awareness. There are very few men that talk about the issue of prostate cancer, so I'm hoping to help get the word out there."

The pair will start their journey from Barnsley football ground on June 9 before arriving in Amsterdam the following day. On the Saturday morning, the two will join many

other cycling fundraisers on a ferry across to the Netherlands.

The 46-year-old added: "Training is going slow at the moment as I'm trying to balance things between work. It's a physical challenge too. I haven't been very active for too long and I want to use the challenge as a personal goal also."

"I've had quite a few sponsors so far and one of my friends has promised to sponsor me £1 per mile, which is great."

To sponsor Councillor Henley, visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stuart-henley](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stuart-henley)

## HEALTH

### GP surgery is open again after revamp

A GP surgery in Halesowen that has been shut for more than six months has now reopened.

The Coombeswood Surgery had been closed since May.

Now NHS bosses have announced it has undergone a refurbishment and there have been a number of appointments, including a new doctor and practice manager.

Caroline Brunt, chief nurse at Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "We are confident that patients, carers and visitors will benefit from the work that has been carried out at the surgery."

## HOUSING

### 60 homes planned for overgrown land

A DEVELOPMENT of more than 60 homes is being earmarked for vacant land in Quarry Bank.

The plans, which are for 63 homes off Rose Hill, have been submitted to Dudley Council.

The proposal comprises the construction of one and two-bedroom apartments and houses with two, three and four bedrooms.

The development covers 1.62 hectares of land, large parts of which are currently covered by vegetation.

## DEMONSTRATION

### Hundreds in protest against Trump edict

HUNDREDS of protesters gathered in Birmingham city centre to voice their anger over US President Donald Trump's controversial travel ban on people from several Muslim-majority countries.

Placard-waving protesters packed into Victoria Square to oppose the President's edict, which has been widely condemned and may also be illegal. They also want his state visit to the UK halted.

An executive order by Mr Trump banned Syrian refugees from the US, and temporarily suspended the entry of nationals from seven countries, including Iraq, Iran, Somalia and Yemen.

## INSIDE

### GEAR UP FOR RACE RETRO



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Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, February 2, 2017

# 'Violent man' is jailed for pub attack

A 47-year-old thug, who repeatedly hit a customer over the head with a bottle when trouble flared at a Black Country pub, has been jailed for eight months.

Leslie Madeley weighed in when his 25-year-old friend Jamie Parsons became involved as a dispute between two women escalated into pushing and shoving. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Madeley was already holding the bottle used to strike Martin Jeavons, who was also being punched by Parsons at the Bulls Head, which was near the Rowley Regis homes of the attackers.

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting, said Mr Jeavons had only been trying to restore order. The bottle

remained intact during the assault and caused a relatively minor cut during the August 21 incident.

The victim later told police: "I bled a lot and did not deserve what happened. I was only trying to stop the incident from escalating."

Mr Mukhtar Ubhi, defending both men, said: "This was a short lived incident. Something had gone on before it occurred which was not the fault of either of the defendants. Parsons was minding his own business when a woman came up and started pointing her finger at him."

"She was ushered away but came back and started a fight with a woman who was with Parsons. He then got involved in a fight with the in-

jured party. Madeley saw this and went to help. His involvement lasted no more than seven seconds. Both he and Parsons were then held back."

Madeley, of Windsor Road, had 12 previous convictions involving 29 separate offences, including a serious bottle attack 22 years ago.

He and his co-accused, who had two previous convictions, both admitted assault.

Madeley was jailed for eight months while Parsons received a three-month prison term suspended for a year with 120 hours' unpaid work plus £750 compensation and £340 costs.

Judge Michael Challinor told Madeley that he was a 'violent man'.

# Campaign to help the homeless is growing

A HOMELESSNESS charity, set up by a Stourbridge widow in memory of her husband, has received a flood of support.

'Leslie's Care Packages for the Homeless' was launched by Wollaston resident Vi Wood in honour of her husband Leslie, who died, aged 59, from cancer last year.

As a German citizen Vi found herself at risk of losing her home following her husband's death, and became acutely aware of how easily people can fall into homelessness.

Although she and her family have managed to keep a roof over their heads, her experience prompted Vi to begin collecting donations from the public and taking them both to homelessness charities and directly to those sleeping on the streets.

## Website

With the help of her family, Vi has now launched a website for the cause, [www.lesliescarepackages.org](http://www.lesliescarepackages.org) and drop off points have been set up.

These can be found at the Coffee Cups community cafe on Thornhill Road, Halesowen; at the Cornbow Shopping Centre's management office next to Argos in Queensway Mall; and at Fair & Square gift shop in Market Street, Stourbridge.

She is now launching an Easter appeal, asking for rucksacks with toiletries for the homeless.

Email Vi at [lesliescarepackages@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliescarepackages@yahoo.com) for details.

# Jail term facing child sex abuser

A MAN from Cradley Heath who sexually abused a young girl and made more than 100 indecent images of children has been told he faces jail.

Paul Mann, aged 35, admitted two charges of sexually assaulting a child under the age of 13 and eight charges relating to indecent images.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that the offences took place between 2010 and 2015.

Mann, of Woodhouse Way, is due to be sentenced on February 27.

He was told that he could expect to serve time behind bars despite admitting the crimes.

Judge James Burbidge told Mann: "The fact I am adjourning this case for sentence should not put in your mind that you will avoid custody."

# Blue plaque will honour cartoonist

A BLUE plaque honouring Dandy cartoonist Charlie Grigg is to be unveiled in May at Rood End Primary School in Oldbury, which Mr Grigg attended as a child. Mr Grigg sketched the famous comic characters Desperate Dan and Korky the Cat, for more than 20 years.

# The price of Peace? Just under £2 million

**JEREMY Peace paid himself almost £2 million for his last year owning the Baggies, new figures reveal.**

He sold his 88 per cent stake in the club to Chinese tycoon Guochuan Lai for £175m in August after 14 years as chairman.

The latest accounts for West Bromwich Albion Holdings Ltd, the club's parent company, show that Mr Peace – the sole director – was paid £1.95m in the 12 months to the end of June.

That's an £833,000 hike on the £1.12m he was paid the year before.

But he left behind one of the most financially stable clubs in the country, which recorded overall pre-tax profits of £4.8m for the 2015/16 season – down from £7.6m the year before.

The club made £2.5m less on player deals during the year, ending with a profit on sales of £2.8m.

Turnover for the year rose to £98.3m, up from 96.2m in the previous 12 months.

The club also increased its spending on players. During the financial year it forked out £28.2m – a huge jump on the £19.6m it spend the previous year.

## Coach

And there was further spending over the months following the end of the financial period. Accounts filed at Companies House show that the Baggies, under head coach Tony Pulis, spent another £24.5m.

It added another £25.1m to the club's future liabilities for team player wages, which stood at £102.4m by September 1.

Albion broke their transfer record for the third season running when they signed attacking midfielder Nacer Chadli from Tottenham in a £13m deal.

Their summer purchases also included winger Matt Phillips and defender Allan Nyom for fees in the region of £4m and £3m, while long-serving midfielder James Mor-



Former Baggies owner Jeremy Peace paid himself £1.95 million in his final year as the club's sole director

rison signed a newcontract worth around £60,000-a-week.

The club and its other businesses, including its player academy, was transferred to Mr Lai's Yunyi Guokai (Shanghai) Sports Development Ltd on September 15, when Mr Peace formally quit.

New club director Pi Yue Li said the season saw West Brom accumulate 43 points from 10 wins and 13 draws, including home wins against

Arsenal and Manchester United as well as 'a satisfying away victory over our local rivals Aston Villa'.

## Risks

The club finished 14th in the Premier League.

"The board is aware of the risks which affect the company," said Mr Li. "It has analysed previous seasons spent in the Premier League and has tried to implement lessons learned

from this experience. The long-term policy of the club is to improve the playing squad and its infrastructure year on year."

The accounts also show that average attendances slipped to their lowest in more than five years, 24,600 a game, while the number of season ticket holders was down, to 17,925, from 18,300 the season before and 19,200 in 2014.

Halesowen

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# Holt Farm primary site to be cleared for housing

WORK has begun to clear the site of a former Halesowen primary school which has stood derelict for more than 10 years.

Plans to put 27 homes on the site of Holt Farm Primary School in Halesowen were recommended for approval, but a decision was put off at the last meeting of Dudley Council's planning committee to allow members to visit the site.

Diggers have now arrived on the Holt Road site to clear the old car park and nursery playground. Trees and weeds are also being removed.

The school was sold last summer, after being on the market for £1.35m.

The site has suffered vandalism, fly-tipping and an arson attack since the school closed in 2006.

The roof of part of the 105-year-old building was destroyed by the blaze in 2014.

## Positive

Councillor Karen Shakespeare had labelled the potential development as 'incredibly positive news' for Halesowen. She said: "It has been in such a sad state and a magnet for anti-social behaviour for so long."

Councillor Shakespeare was a pupil at the school herself but it closed due to falling birth rates.

She added: "At the time of the closure I did try to do everything I could to save it but a lot of work was needed to get it up to modern standards.

Only one objection had been received against the housing proposals, due to concern over traffic.

# Homes proposed on old factories

A MAJOR scheme to build more than 300 homes on a run-down industrial estate has taken a step forward.

Factory units off Woods Lane and Macarthur Road, in Cradley Heath, could be bulldozed to make way for a housing estate of 351 homes across the nine acre site.

It is hoped the factories will be demolished over the next three years to allow work on the homes to begin.

Sandwell Council is set to sign off on the transfer of the land and bosses will then begin looking at securing the site and preparing for demolition.

The authority has been handed more than £5 million from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership in support of the housing scheme.

# Students create anti-bully mural

MORE than 300 Halesowen College students created a mural to support Anti-Bullying Week by using their hand prints. The event was to shine a spotlight on the issue and has gone on permanent display at the college.

# Family centres to be run by schools

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council is proposing a restructure that would see it ceasing to fund 15 of its 20 children's centres, in a move to cut £1.4 million from its family service budget.

The centres offer families a host of activities plus get access to information and support.

Five of the centres – Brierley Hill, Stourbridge, Coseley, Kates Hill and Lye – will remain with the local authority and convert to become family centres in the new restructure.

The remaining 15 will transfer to schools with a clear specification from the council that the centres must continue in the same way – saving the council £177,000.

The move is part of their wider restructuring of

the Family Solutions service which could save the local authority a total of £1.4m.

In 2013 the council announced it would close seven centres, but following a campaign by the public to save them, council bosses did a U-turn and decided to keep them open.

In 2014 the council announced that 19 jobs at the centres were at risk and centres' hours and services were reduced.

Since December, Tenterfields and Hob Green children's centres have been the first to transfer to their respective schools, and will be shortly followed by Colley Lane.

The next centres prioritised are those going for academy conversion, and will therefore move out

of local authority control, at Woodside and at Olive Hill.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services said: "Our children's centres provide universal support to local families and under our new proposals this support will be targeted exactly where it is needed.

"The council will continue to run five of the centres, while handing over the reins of the remaining 15 to schools who are perfectly placed to provide these services to families in their communities. The new family service provision will provide a stronger, more efficient and improved service."

But Councillor Paul Brothwood feared it would put more pressure on schools.

# Businessman is guilty over hate campaign

A 'DEVIOUS' Black Country businessman was behind a terrifying hate campaign against his former lover, culminating in a petrol bomb attack on her home in Halesowen

Robert McNaughton had been convicted of conspiring to commit criminal damage.

He has been remanded in custody to be sentenced next month, when it is likely he will be given a prison sentence.

Hairdresser Sharon McCann, a 46-year-old mother-of-two, who now lives in Spain, said she was relieved by the verdict. Her father Brian added: "That man put my daughter through hell and did his best to ruin her life."

Mr Jeremy Hayes, defending, pleaded for 51-year-old father-of-three McNaughton to be given bail until sentence was passed. But Judge Simon Ward rejected the request, saying: "I think he is a devious and complex man."

McNaughton will know his fate on February 17. A jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week heard that McNaughton wanted to 'get back' at Miss McCann, after she ended their seven year relationship in September 2013 amid claims of him being unfaithful.

The defendant bombarded her with threatening text messages and used a photograph of an intimate moment during their romance on a fake Facebook account he set up in her name.

## Destroy

McNaughton was jailed for six months in 2013 after refusing to remove a 40ft high mountain of rubbish at the Moor Street, Brierley Hill, site of Refuse Derived Fuel, the recycling business of which he was a director until it folded.

Last week's trial heard he recruited 42-year-old Matthew Barker, who he had met in prison, and Joden Smith, 19, both from Leicestershire, to destroy and deface property belonging to Miss McCann.

Mr Peter Arnold, prosecuting, said: "It was nasty, unpleasant stuff, not just on one occasion but time after time, very often at night."

It ended when a petrol bomb gutted a car and damaged Miss McCann's home in Halesowen on February 1, 2015. The wrecking spree had started two months earlier when the tyres of a car parked outside the property were punctured and the front window of the house was smashed 11 days later.

McNaughton, of Tenter Drive, Halesowen had denied the charge. He will be sentenced alongside Barker and Smith, who admitted their part in the plot.



The rubbish mountain in Brierley Hill that landed McNaughton behind bars on a previous occasion



Robert McNaughton – 'a devious man'



Sharon McCann – her home was firebombed

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Leisure petition tops 4,000 mark

MORE than 4,000 people have signed petitions against the potential closure of leisure centres in Dudley borough.

About 2,787 signatures have been collected on paper petitions and 1,410 from an e-petition by the Save Our Leisure Centres group.

Protesters said they would be pushing for a full council debate on the matter after they reached a milestone of 3,000 signatures.

Dudley Council wants to demolish Halesowen and Dudley leisure centres and Crystal Leisure Centre, in Stourbridge, and build two replacements.

## Two accolades are retained by college

HALESOWEN College is celebrating retaining two awards highlighting excellent customer service for students.

The college has been assessed again for the Customer Service Excellence Award and the Matrix Standard for Advice and Guidance.

Halesowen is one of only a handful of colleges to get and keep the awards for customer service and its advice and guidance to students.

Paul Bywater, school liaison manager at Halesowen College, said: "We are delighted to have retained these prestigious awards."

## Demand growing for new houses

DEMAND for homes at a Rowley Regis development has hit its busiest rate so far with four sales in a week.

Redrow's Rowley Grange on Throne Road was launched last spring and to date more than 40 homes have been sold and over a dozen are now occupied. Pauline Turnbull, sales director, said: "The demand for new homes at Rowley Grange remains high and we sold four properties in just seven days. Quite simply we can't build them quick enough."

## It's comedy and cake with added Fizzogs

BLACK Country comedy troupe The Fizzogs, best known for their dancing grannies, have been added to the line-up for a show in aid of Wolverhampton's Light House Media Centre.

Comics Barabra Nice and Jo Enright will also be putting the 'fun' into fundraising at the Sunday afternoon show, from 2pm on February 12. Comedy with Cake is part of efforts to keep the venue and its cinema open. Tickets £8 from the venue at the landmark Chubb Buildings, call (01902) 716055.

## Chance to have chat

DUDLEY Canal and Tunnel Trust is encouraging people to join their Chit Chat Club at the Gongoozler restaurant to enjoy a free hot drink and a chat. New for 2017, the club will host guest speakers. The club is on Tuesdays at The Portal, Birmingham New Road, from 10am and is free to attend.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A GROUP of Morris dancers in Essex are trying to recruit new members and say the pastime may appeal to eccentrics. And there's the problem. You cannot advertise for eccentrics because true eccentrics have no idea they are eccentric.

THANKS for your letters and emails on the subject of Morris dancers blacking-up and causing some offence. The vast majority were in support of an allegedly noble old English tradition (for which I can find very little hard evidence) and against "political correctness gone mad." I dare say the key question is this: since we became aware that blacking-up can cause offence, has the number of blacked-up Morris men decreased or increased?

PRINCE Charles says if weather reports contained climate-change news, people would be "more inclined to think about the longer term." Maybe. But it is a tad irritating, as a humble citizen living a fairly clean, green and low-impact existence, to be lectured from on high by a monarch-in-waiting who travels by limousine, plane or helicopter. Maybe such reports could include a running total of HRH's flights?



A REPORT to Parliament reveals that some women are forced to wear high heels, make-up and revealing clothing by company workplace dress codes. This is clearly unfair. However, these issues tend to go off in all sorts of unexpected directions. How long before a woman wins the right to go to work in a nice, slouchy onesie and a comfortable pair of old Crocs, even if the workplace in question is the chorus line of Chicago.

SOME years ago we had a long-running thread on Swifties, those one-liners where the final word creates a joke, as in: "'Use your own toothbrush!' Tom bristled," or "'This is mutiny,' Bill exclaimed bountifully." The Museum of Curiosity (Radio 4) this week gave us what must be the ultimate Swifty: "'I have 1,760 yards of paddy fields,' he said with a wry smile."

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Pensioner's arms were broken by brutal thugs

**AN 81-year-old man was woken by masked burglars who beat him with a metal bar in a brutal attack at his Black Country home.**

The pensioner was left with broken arms, cuts and bruises and was severely shocked by the ordeal.

Detectives at West Midlands Police say they have been left sickened by the attack and are now urging local people to get behind their bid to find the man's attackers.

Police said the victim woke up around 5am on January 21 and disturbed the two masked burglars. When he confronted them, the pair attacked the man with a metal bar.

Despite his injuries, the victim managed to phone 999 and officers raced to his Oldbury home. The raiders took cash and a mobile phone before fleeing from the property in the Whiteheath area of the town.

Detective Constable Beth Weir, of West Midlands Police, said: "I've been left sickened by the sheer level of violence used on this man.

### Bullies

"He's 81, what kind of bullies do that?"

"We're working hard to find the two attackers but I really need people to help. I would urge people to think back over the last week and consider if they've seen anyone looking out of place or acting suspiciously in the area. No matter how insignificant you think that information may be, please pick up the phone," she said.

By Clare Butler

The pensioner underwent emergency treatment and was still recovering in hospital after the attack.

Councillor Yvonne Davies, who represents the Langley ward, said she was 'shocked' and 'saddened' by the attack.

She added: "This is not the type of thing that happens in this area. It is decent and quiet and this is absolutely shocking.

"My heart goes out to this gentleman and his family. This is a dreadful thing to hear and if I can be of any help to his family during this time then I would be more than happy to take a call from them," she said.

A police spokesman added: "Forensics have attended and house to house inquiries are being carried out along with a trawl of CCTV cameras in the area."

Anyone who can help police with their investigation is asked to contact De Weir on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Compliments to the chef



Catering boss Andrew Singer with sister Dulcie Cadwallader

A CHEF who started his own business after honing his cookery skills in the navy, has decided to take his well-earned retirement at the age of 78.

After almost 40 years of running his own catering firm, Andrew Singer from Wordsley is retiring, closing his business Anddor Catering. The name of the business blends the names of Andrew and his late wife Dorothy.

Andrew marked his retirement by enjoying a meal with family, friends and former Anddor staff at The Wall Heath Tavern.

Born in Netherton, Andrew joined the merchant navy at the age of 16 and learned to cook aboard the SS British Merchant.

Andrew worked in Beaties' kitchen for a couple of years, but then decided to set up on his own and founded Anddor in 1978.

He said: "I'll really miss the job but I can still cook for the family. I'll miss seeing all my old customers."

Andrew is now looking forward to a quiet retirement spending more time with his family, including daughter Jayne and his four granddaughters Rachael, Molly, Chloe and Phoebe.

# Assurances sought on crossing wardens

CAMPAIGNERS have called for assurances over the long-term future of school crossing patrols in Dudley after the council's U-turn on axing funding for the next year.

After a 20,000-strong petition and demonstrations against proposals for schools to pay for wardens themselves, the council announced it intends to fund the service for 2017/18. But this has led to questions over whether the school crossing patrols will be secured for years to come.

Kelly Round, a governor at Thorns Primary School in Quarry Bank, said: "We are really pleased with the outcome, but it is only for a year. We need to know what impact there will be in the future."

Cabinet member Councillor Hilary Bills has reiterated that schools will not have to pay for the service under the revised proposals.

"The schools have never had to pay for this service, and they won't have to," she said.

"We have found a new way of funding this through the council's public health department, and their initiative to get more parents and children to walk to school."

Previously the authority had described it as 'a non-statutory service' and argued that by no longer funding the wardens it could save £395,000.

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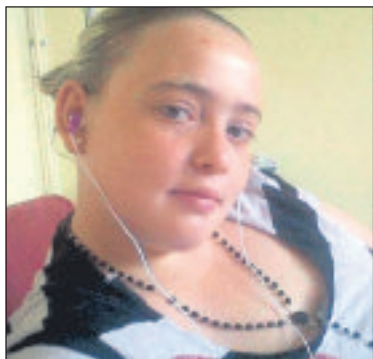
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Mother-of-three Wendy Mann, who was murdered



A police vehicle outside the murder scene in Chapel Street, West Bromwich



Sterling said to be carrying a bag of his children's clothes after leaving the murder scene

# Pure jealousy led to man strangling his former lover



Life behind bars – Leroy Sterling

IT was a murder that was fuelled by jealousy. Leroy Sterling could not bear the fact the mother of his children was seeing a new man – and he was not going to allow it.

First, he tried to put her new lover out of the picture by bludgeoning him with a hammer and stabbing him in the neck after luring him to his house.

But that failed when his blood-soaked victim managed to get away when Sterling's attack was interrupted by family members calling at

his door. Six weeks later, he murdered his former partner Wendy Mann.

Sterling, aged 63, was jailed for life after being found guilty of her murder and the attempted murder of Trevor Tyndale last week. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Sterling left his house in Guns Lane, West Bromwich, early on August 27, 2015.

## Hooded

CCTV captured a figure appearing to emerge from his home, heading in the direction of Miss Mann's flat in Chapel Street, Mr Tyndale. The mother-of-three's new lover told the court he saw a hooded man 'hanging around' near her flat when he left at 6.30am. Over the next few hours,

Sterling went into his ex-partner's home and strangled the 26-year-old.

The jury heard how there was no signs of forced entry into the flat, suggesting Miss Mann knew her killer and had let him in.

Prosecutor Mr Mark Hayward said she had been dragged from the living room as the life was being squeezed out of her. Experts said she may have also received a blow to her head before being strangled. Nothing was heard from Miss Mann from around 10am. Normally a prolific texter, friends and family grew concerned as her phone remained switched off.

Miss Mann's brother and his partner went round to her house at around 10pm to check on her. They

thought it unusual that her window was open at that time but decided they would come back the next morning with the spare key. When they did they found her lying motionless on the floor.

One of the first people who was called was Sterling. Although he and Miss Mann were no longer together, Sterling would still see the family because of the children.

Miss Mann's brother Stephen told Sterling down the phone that he thought she was dead. Sterling claimed in court this was the first he knew of her death – and broke down in tears at recalling the phone call – but the jury did not buy it.

Inconsistencies in his story came to

light. When arrested over the attack on Mr Tyndale, he told police his love rival had picked up a knife from his kitchen before launching an attack on him. But he told the jury in court Mr Tyndale had brought the knife into his home from outside.

CCTV footage was also damning, showing a figure leaving Guns Lane, where Sterling lived, and heading towards Chapel Street using a white phone. At that exact moment, Miss Mann had received a call from her son's phone – which was white.

A figure was then picked up walking back the other way carrying a bag over his shoulder. The children's clothes were missing from Miss Mann's flat after she was found dead

and it was suggested Sterling had taken them as he knew they would never see their mother again.

Sterling's DNA was found on Miss Mann's body, but none from Mr Tyndale who had spent the night with her.

The prosecution suggested that pointed to Sterling having had contact with her after she had showered that morning. Neighbours also told how the pair had rowed over her relationship with Mr Tyndale.

Sentencing Sterling to life in prison, Judge James Burbidge told him: "Your actions have also deprived these children at possibly the time of greatest need, growing up, their father figure."

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IN MY VIEW  
with Mark Andrews

# Speed fines hike needs to trap the boy racers

TOUGHER laws for motorists come into force from April, with really stiff fines for the worst offenders.

For example, people caught speeding at 50mph in a 30mph zone can expect to be fined £1,000, with fines rising to up to £2,500 for the worst cases.

And to be blunt, I don't see the problem with it. Ok, driving bans for people doing 11mph over the limit seem a bit excessive, but I guess we'll just have to be careful.

Driving at 50mph in a built-up area is selfish, irresponsible, and dangerous. If it is sensibly enforced, those caught deserve to be hit in the pocket.

That is a big 'if', though. These things are never sensibly enforced.

I remember some time, about 15 years ago or so, there was a stretch of road in Cannock where the speed limit changed suddenly from 50mph to 30.

And you've guessed it, within a few yards of the sign was a carefully-concealed speed camera. A friend who worked in the area said it was well known to locals, and was always catching people out.

And that is the trouble with this sort of thing. I'm all in favour of throwing the book at self-centred boy racers with a casual disregard for public safety. If you ask me, fining them £2,500 is nowhere near enough. You can put 'em in the stocks and make 'em watch Howard's Way for all I care. I can be really sadistic like that.

But it never works out like that does it? Targeting the bad guys takes time, effort and money.

And "road safety partnerships" always seem more motivated by "working with partners in local government" to set up confusing new road layouts with onerous speed limits, which generate funds "to invest in other road safety measures". In other words, more cameras.

Expect to see more pensioners and working people being hit with crippling fines as they get caught out by new speed limits and hidden cameras. Meanwhile, the boy racers quickly work out where the speed traps are and move on to somewhere else.

□ □ □

WONDERFUL to see the traffic cones have now arrived for the extension to the Midland Metro tram line, which will mean an end to people having to walk 400 yards from the railway station.

What's more, for a cost to the taxpayer of £15 million, commuters will soon be able to travel from Wolverhampton station to Birmingham New Street – in more than double the time it takes on the train.



Telford's elegant Georgian stone bridge at Bewdley



Engineer Thomas Telford never forgot his humble origins



Pontcysyllte Aquaduct – known as the 'Stream in the Sky'

# The man of iron who helped build Britain

A new book by Julian Glover hails Thomas Telford as Britain's greatest ever engineer

**"TELFORD, for people on the move" went the early slogan for the new town created in Shropshire in the late 1960s.**

And it turns out that that slogan captured much of the spirit of the great engineer after whom the town was named.

"He was always moving on," says Julian Glover, who has written a major new biography of Thomas Telford which has just been published and is BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week. "His life was all about movement. Never settled, always restless."

His book, called Man of Iron, hails Thomas Telford as a British great.

"I think Telford has been overlooked a little bit. He was Britain's greatest civil engineer," said Julian.

"Telford was a really significant figure in the creation of our country and our history and in shaping the skills of engineering which went on to change the world.

"My book tells the story of who he was, where he came from, and what he created. That's what I've tried to write, not just about structures and engineering, but the impact on his world."

Telford was not a Salopian, and neither is Julian, but as his parents have a home at Ditton Priors, near Bridgnorth, and he grew up knowing Telford's name.

In doing his research, he began at the place where 'Tammy Telfer' was born in humble circumstances, the son of an Eskdale shepherd in Dumfries, Scotland.

"I thought there was an extraordinary journey from a boy on the Scottish borders who might have spent his whole life looking after sheep, to a man who came to Shropshire and built great canals and the Pontcysyllte aqueduct.

"I began to explore his story and look in the



A horse drawn cargo being led beneath Telford's Galton Bridge, Smethwick, in the 1930s

archives, a lot of which are in London. People who met him were impressed by two things. One was that he was very practical. He was proud of where he came from and did not try to put on airs and graces, or spend money or buy a big house when successful. He was always proud of being a shepherd boy.

## Jolly

"They saw him as strong and solid, not a fancy city person. The second thing they saw was that he was very good company, big, bluff, with a broad face. A lot of hair, did not dress up in flash clothes, very jolly with a lot of anecdotes, and friendly and generous. He gave a lot of money away. And he was absolutely driven, really hard working."

It was in Shropshire that Telford made his name, says Julian, and many of the best projects he worked on can still be found in the

county, or nearby in Wales or the Black Country.

He arrived in the county in late 1786, doing reconstruction at Shrewsbury Castle, and was soon busy with a wide range of projects, from building bridges and churches to doing excavations at Wroxeter Roman City, and had the role of county surveyor.

He designed Bridgnorth's neo-classical Church of St Mary Magdalene and the unusual octagonal church of St Michael's at Madeley.

After River Severn floods caused havoc in Shropshire and Worcestershire, he designed bridges for Buildwas, Bridgnorth and Bewdley.

He found fame as a builder of roads, bridges and canals. His major projects included linking the East and West coasts of Scotland via the Caledonian Canal and he also transformed the canal network in Birmingham and the Black

Country. One of his final projects was Galton Bridge at Smethwick, named after Samuel Galton of Birmingham's Lunar Society of pioneer industrialists. Built to Telford's design in 1829, the cast iron road bridge with its single span of 151 feet was a marvel of the later Georgian age. It spans James Brindley's canal, which Telford had improved, and still stands near the rail station which is named after it.

Although Shropshire was his home, he did not have a Shropshire home as such.

"The question of where Telford lived is a challenging one. He lived where the work was. Early on he did stay in the castle and letters are written in the castle.

"He would often stay with Archibald Alison at his rectory somewhere near Market Drayton."

As part of his research Julian, who lives in London, delved into archives at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum's Museum of Iron, and came to see some of the structures for which Telford was responsible in the county, such as the iron aqueduct at Longdon-on-Tern.

"I think the Longdon aqueduct is amazing because it's so early and looks like a completely modern thing.

## Suspension

"Two other favourites are both in Wales. One is the Menai Bridge, the world's first big suspension bridge. And then the other one is Pontcysyllte aqueduct just over the border, which is a World Heritage Site. When you go to see it, it never disappoints."

As for the town which bears Telford's name, Julian says he has seen it grow, and has been struck by two things – the success in landscaping an industrial environment and the respect shown for the industrial heritage of the area.

"It did not try to hide from the past. It was unusual at the time for a town to do that.

"A lot of places in Britain neglected their past, Telford cherished it."

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# Raw deal on rail for Black Country

WOULD it not enable the four Black Country boroughs to compete more effectively with the honey pot that is Birmingham, if we completed the 120km Black Country Railway between Worcester and Derby.

This would enable the freight and passenger trains to return over the full length straight away and put Dudley back on the national railway network. Plus, an additional main line strategic railway for Sandwell and Walsall.

Yet, the councillors and transport bosses insist that only by doing trams and, later,

tram trains first can the freight and passenger trains' then return. But only by the 2040s at the earliest and only in the case of freight! And the 120km Black Country Railway will be needed for freight even more urgently once the passenger trains and stations return to the 39km of Birmingham freight only lines.

How typical. Birmingham gets HS2, trams on roads to replace diesel buses AND their passenger trains and stations back.

**TIM WELLER**  
Halesowen

# Tax is the answer to NHS crisis

THE Prime Minister's demand for GPs to open all hours is merely moving the problems to another part of the NHS.

The Government is fond of stating that there are more elderly people living longer, which should be a cause for celebration, but use it as an excuse for the failure of health services.

However, they are also eager to claim that we are the fifth largest economy in the world and that there are more people in work than ever before.

Therefore tax receipts should also be at an all-time high and public finances should be healthy. This is clearly not the case.

Successive Governments refuse to raise income taxes because they care more about clinging to power than providing for the people.

By raising taxes and closing all legal loopholes for tax dodgers, the fifth largest economy should be more than capable of rectifying the situation.

**M CLIFF**  
Dudley

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

## EMAIL

dudleychrons@  
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Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

# Caustic substances are a threat to cats

WE have four cats, all of whom have been rescued. We are also regularly visited by others looking for food and shelter.

One of these was a large ginger and white tom cat who was the local top cat. We have no idea to whom he belonged. Last week, a neighbour who also has cats, came to see if we had seen ginger as he had not looked well and had run off when our neighbour had tried to get him in a carrier to take him to the vet.

Ginger disappeared for a few days and I found him in our summerhouse looking unwell. As we have no idea where he belongs, I telephoned the RSPCA and was asked to isolate him and give him some food

and water. An RSPCA inspector came and said that he might have an abscess in his mouth as his mouth was bleeding. The inspector telephoned me later that day to say that Ginger had consumed something caustic as his mouth and throat were badly burned and his kidneys were damaged. He had to be put down.

I would urge people to get rid of caustic substances safely. However, if this was a deliberate act, then whoever has done it should be ashamed. It was fortunate that Ginger trusted us enough to come to us, otherwise he could have spent a long and agonising time until he starved to death

**LEN HALES**  
Cradley Heath

# No justice for this dog

I WAS deeply saddened to read of the cruelty this beautiful dog experienced (Stourbridge Chronicle, January 26).

So the perpetrator got his just punishment. The poor dog recovered from his appalling injuries and was then euthanased. She had no justice. She did nothing wrong.

I beg the Government to look again at the Dangerous Dogs Act.

We are learning all the time that it is the owners, not dogs, who are to blame for most of the dangerous dogs we hear about.

These poor creatures become victims of humans. It is heartbreaking!

**MRS PAT ORCHARD**  
Lye

# Lay claim to cycling's home

RECENTLY in the national press there was an article that claimed that Yorkshire was the main centre of cycling in the country.

Someone wrote trying to put forward Wolverhampton as the 'capital', based on Percy Stallard's exploits.

When I first became interested in cycling in the late 1950s, there were lots of cycling clubs in the Midlands.

From my memory there were Wolverhampton Wheelers, Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club, Penn CC, Wulfrun Olympic, Elizabethan CC, Wolverhampton CRA, Sedgley CC, Gornal Wheelers, Tipton RCC, Willenhall, West Bromwich Dartmouth, Audnam Wheelers, Wednesbury Velo, etc.

**PETER COLE**  
Kingswinford

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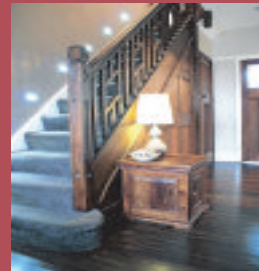
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**FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL**



## 8 One in four of hospital parking fines revoked

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, February 2, 2017

EVERY single parking fine appealed at Russells Hall Hospital over a year was successfully overturned.

New figures showed not one penalty was upheld when challenged by irate drivers. The surprising statistics mean every person who took the time to appeal their fine from Russells Hall during 2015/16 ended up not having to pay a penny.

Just over a quarter of drivers fined – 358 – appealed the penalty.

Those deemed to have broken the rules at the hospital are initially hit with a £70 fines but the bill is reduced to £40 if paid within 14 days.

A study from YourParkingSpace.co.uk found 26 per cent of fines from Russells Hall were appealed, which meant that more than 1,000 people paid up straight away.

Hospital bosses explained that the 'vast majority' of appeals were made by staff who had not put their permits on display.

If the 358 fines had been paid rather than appealed it would have brought in between £14,320 and £25,060.

### Disgrace

Dudley councillor and UKIP MEP Bill Etheridge, who has been highly critical about parking fees at Russells Hall, said the figures showed anyone who feels they have been unfairly fined should appeal straight away.

He said: "If people feel they have been unjustly fined they should appeal, no question about it. Parking fees are an absolute disgrace anyway and taxpayers who already pay a huge amount to the NHS are being hit again. It's a cruel extra tax on the sick, people who work there and visitors who are worried enough as it is."

Motorists at Russells Hall are warned they will be fined if they park in drop-off areas for longer than the stated time, on red lines, on pavements or pedestrian walkways, on grass verges or block access for emergency vehicles.

A total of 1,366 fines were slapped on windcreens at Russells Hall during the last financial year.

# Base sought for children's centre after lease runs out

## Dash round the shops to raise money



And they're off! Many runners donned colourful costumes for the Merry Hill shopping centre charity run

THERE was a stampede in the aisles of the Merry Hill shopping centre – but it wasn't the latest sale.

Eager athletes descended on the centre for an indoor charity run.

Led by Pure Gym, the group started with fun warm-ups before running the

perimeter of the centre before shops opened at 11am on Sunday.

Assistant marketing manager at Intu Merry Hill, Naomi Campbell, said: "In January everyone wants to get fit and healthy again and we wanted to help our customers as well

as helping with charity. We thought it would be nice to hold a charity run inside the centre."

The event raised funds for Wolverhampton-based Promise Dreams, a national charity for children who are seriously or terminally ill.

## A CHILDREN'S centre providing support for young families in Cradley Heath is set to move.

The current lease is due to end in March at the Cradley Heath Children's Centre at Valley Road. It holds parent and child sessions, a baby clinic, family support and welfare rights surgeries.

Centre user and mother-of-two, Hannah Billingham, aged 26, said: "The centre is a much-valued and needed resource for parents and children."

"I moved to Cradley and knew nobody but since having my daughter and attending sessions at the group I have made some fantastic friends and been made really welcome."

Sandwell Council says it is committed to continuing to run a children's centre in the area, but at a new site.

Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for children's services, said: "I want to reassure parents and carers these services are not going."

"We are just looking for somewhere else to run the children's centre from."

### Continue

"I will be meeting with parents and carers to reassure them the children's centre will continue to operate."

He added: "I will discuss with parents where the services could be run from to enable them to continue to benefit from the valuable services they currently get at Cradley Heath Children's Centre."

"Massive Government cuts have meant we need to look carefully at our budgets and paying high rent is simply not the best use of our money."

Alternative venues for the services that are currently being considered. These include St James' Church, the Salvation Army building, Cradley Heath Community Centre, Haden Cross Fire station and a community room at the Tesco supermarket.

Parents will be consulted over the plans.

## Youngsters can be VIPs at charity match

A HOSPICE charity is to give four children a VIP experience at an upcoming charity football match.

A team of West Bromwich Albion legends will be taking on a side of former Stourbridge players at the Glassboys' War Memorial Ground on April 2. The Jane Webb Memorial Trophy match is being played in aid of The Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

Hospice staff are seeking nominations for four deserving youngsters to lead the teams out. Community engagement officer Amanda Bowen said: "The whole day is shaping up to be something completely incredible, and we'd love to be able to give some really deserving children a day they'll cherish for the rest of their lives."

The charity match is being organised by former Glassboys player Matt Webb, to raise funds for the hospice in memory of his mother Jane. More than £15,000 was raised last year.

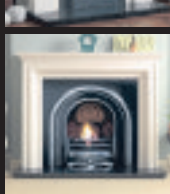
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# Gear up for racing and rally legends

## COMPETITION

**GET** revved up you motor fans, a fantastic line-up of rallying and racing legends is joining the 15th anniversary 'Super Show' celebrations of Race Retro.

The international historic motorsport show returns to Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, from Friday, February 24- Sunday, February 26. And 15 readers will have to chance to win a pair of tickets.

The 'Flying Finns' of rally drivers Ari Vatanen and Markku Alén will both be in action, behind the wheel on the Live Rally Stage, joining the 70-80 cars and drivers from Rallying with Group B, while inside the halls Le Mans legend Tom Kristensen will be on the Motor Sport Live Stage along with motorcycle champion 'Fast' Freddie Spencer.

Vatanen appears on Saturday and Sunday, while Alén will be in the show on Friday afternoon before driving on Saturday. Kristensen also appears on Saturday as an inductee in the Motor Sport Hall of Fame. Spencer, nominated as an inductee for 2017, appears Saturday and Sunday.

The Motor Sport Hall of Fame will see an entire hall dedicated to inductees into this auspicious role of honour. Visitors will get the chance to see cars and bikes linked to Hall of Fame inductees from racing and rallying as well as enjoying live interviews with the stars on the Motor Sport Live Stage.

There will be a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Cosworth DFV, curated by designer Mike Costin, with cars including Keke Rosberg's Williams FW08, a Cosworth 4-wd and a McLaren 23 on display.

There will also be a tribute to Jim Clark with the first appearance in over



Show is a must date for all the retro car fans

four decades of the Lotus 33 chassis R11 which is about to benefit from a sympathetic restoration by Classic Team Lotus, with Clive Chapman at the show to talk about the project.

Race Retro will also mark 40-years of Donington Park with a display from the Donington Grand Prix Collection as well as highlighting the teenagers competing in Historic Motorsport as an avenue to becoming a professional racing driver in 'Teenage Kicks'.

The halls will have more classic cars and historic motorsport vehicles than ever before covering all disciplines from Formula One to hill climbing, rally to GT cars, with fantastic displays by motorsport clubs from around the UK.

Silverstone Auctions return with two sales - its traditional Classics vehicle sale on Sunday along with a dedicated Competition Car sale on Saturday.

Visitors also have the opportunity to drive a professionally prepared classic car, have a rally driver and navigator masterclass, or take part in the Retro

Classic Tour, thanks to HERO, the Historic Endurance Rally Organisation.

The extensive trader village and Autojumble will offer everything you need for the coming season - be it as a driver, mechanic, crew or an ardent enthusiast - with over 250 specialist traders.

Tickets for Race Retro 2017 are now on sale with free parking and a free show guide for all visitors. For the latest updates, visit [www.raceretro.com](http://www.raceretro.com)

### HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets send your name, phone number and email address (the organisers will send tickets) to Retro Car Competition, Chronicle editorial 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday February 9.

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# Record numbers now sleeping on the streets

**RECORD** numbers of people are sleeping rough on the streets of the Black Country and Staffordshire, new figures show.

A total of 78 people are sleeping rough in the regions, the highest since records began in 2010.

According to the figures, released by the Department for Communities and Local Government, Walsall had the most rough sleepers last year with 26, an increase of nearly 400 per cent on the seven in 2015.

Wolverhampton had 18 in 2016, while Sandwell had 11, Cannock Chase four, Dudley three and South Staffordshire one.

Stafford had 15 sleeping rough last year, compared to five in 2015. The 26 in Walsall was the highest across the two regions.

## Fluctuates

Wolverhampton has also seen a rise. Thirteen people were recorded sleeping rough in the city in 2015. Lesley Roberts, Wolverhampton council's strategic director for housing, said: "Each year local authorities are duty bound to either count or estimate the numbers of people sleeping rough on a particular day."

"This figure fluctuates on a daily basis and, at this moment in time, 10 to 14 rough sleepers are being accommodated in the night shelter, at Broad Street Church."

In Sandwell, the number nearly trebled between 2015 and 2016. Just four were recorded in 2015. Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, cabinet member for housing at Sandwell Council, said it had teams across the borough looking to tackle the issue.

In neighbouring Dudley, the figures have stayed low since 2010 when recording of rough sleepers began. There were three back then and that number has never gone below three or higher than six.

In Staffordshire, the number is a lot lower. The exception is the 15 in Stafford, which has gone up from five in 2015. South Staffordshire has just the one rough sleeper, a decrease on the two in 2015.

## Bird house scheme halted



The bird house back in its heyday at Dudley Zoo, where plans to relaunch it as part of the 80th anniversary have been quashed by heritage bosses

PLANS to reopen one of the most famous of the original Tecton buildings at Dudley Zoo as part of its 80th anniversary celebrations have been halted.

The relaunch of the Tropical Bird House has been put on the back burner at the Castle Hill attraction.

A major revamp costing £295,000 to create modern enclosures was announced at the end of last year.

Bosses said they were 'disappointed' plans to reopen the bird house were not going ahead.

Derek Grove, zoo director, said: "We felt this was a wonderful oppor-

tunity to bring an original Tecton building back into use during our 80th year as an all-weather indoor exhibit for small South American species. But we've been informed by heritage officials they'd prefer to develop a plan to explore potential opportunities for all the remaining unrestored Grade II-listed Tecton structures on site, rather than just devising options for the Tropical Bird House."

The protected Tecton buildings are considered classic examples of modernist 20th century architecture.

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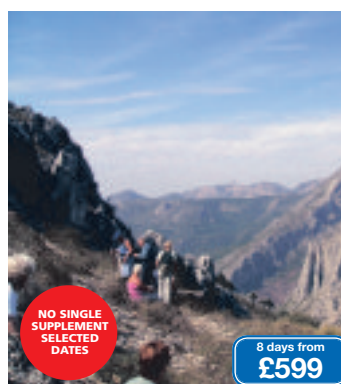
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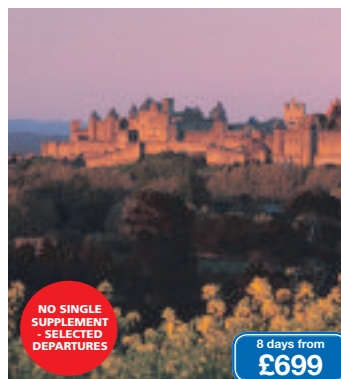
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# Rescue dog honorary All Black ahead of charity ball

ZINZAN the greyhound has become an honorary All Black after taking the same name as a New Zealand rugby legend.

The three-year-old pooch was named after Zinzan Brooke in tribute to the former player's fundraising work for a Walsall greyhound rehoming centre.

The retired Kiwi number eight, who played 58 tests for the All Blacks, teamed up with John Woodward of Wolverhampton-based demolition firm C & D Consultancy to raise money for Bark Inn Kennels, near Aldridge.

When the black greyhound arrived at the kennels to be rehomed, staff decided to name him after Mr Brooke in honour of his fundraising efforts.

But it was not long before Zinzan found a new home, and within a

week of his arrival at the kennels he had been adopted.

Michelle Owen, manager of Bark Inn Kennels, said: "We decided to name him Zinzan and we had hoped to take a photograph of Zinzan Brooke with Zinzan the dog. But he was rehomed so quickly that there wasn't time.

"It's great he found a new home so quickly."

So far Mr Woodward and Mr Brooke have raised more than £2,000 for the kennels.

They will hold a third fundraiser, An Evening With Zinzan Brooke, at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill on tonight (Thursday), at 7.15pm. During the night there will also be a charity raffle and silent auction. Tickets for the fundraiser cost £50 plus VAT. Call 01902 244220.



Michelle Owen from Rowley Regis with Zinzan the greyhound at the Bark Inn Kennels, near Walsall

# Ambulance staff are 'outstanding'

AMBULANCE bosses have praised their staff after a trust was rated 'outstanding' by the health watchdog.

West Midlands Ambulance Service, which cares for about 5.6 million people and covers around 5,000-square miles, received the highest rating from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) following the inspection last summer.

Chief Executive Anthony Marsh praised staff members who 'work so hard' for patients and fellow colleagues. He said the trust was 'delighted' with the glowing report, the first time an ambulance service in England had been rated outstanding.

Inspectors said the trust was outstanding in terms of its effectiveness and care. It was also rated good for its safety, leadership and responsiveness.

WMAS responds to around 3,000 999 calls everyday and sends out ambulances from more than 90 stations across the region.

Mr Marsh said: "I am incredibly proud of my staff and the volunteers who support us, for providing the best possible care to patients across the West Midlands."

# Paramedic flies in for life-saving blood trial

A HELICOPTER paramedic for Midlands Air Ambulance has been drafted in to help researchers in a ground-breaking project that could help save lives of patients.

Jim Hancox, who works for the Stourbridge-based charity, will help trial giving patients blood transfusions at the scene of accidents.

The study will see whether giving patients blood transfusions who have suffered major injuries and blood loss in accidents is better than traditional saline drips.

Mr Hancox's role as a research critical care paramedic, will be to coordinate the logistics of the project.

This will include the recruitment of 25 patients for the pilot phase of the study.

Patients who suffer major injuries and are attended by ambulance crews in the West Midlands will be the first patients in the study.

They will be given either blood transfusions or saline drips at random, before their progress to recovery is then monitored.



Air paramedic Jim Hancox

bust evidence demonstrating that giving pre-hospital blood products is beneficial and, of course, there are significant clinical, logistical and financial consequences to giving all patients this treatment."

He continued: "The blood products we will be using will be a combination of O-negative blood, the universal group which can be given to anyone, and freeze dried plasma.

"We will of course ensure that people who may not wish to receive blood products - such as Jehovah's Witnesses - are identified and specifically excluded from the trial."

Jim, aged 36, who lives in Malvern with his wife Bernice, was a baker before training as a flight paramedic.

Meanwhile, it has been announced that the air ambulance charity, based at RAF Cosford, has received a £1 million grant towards the £7m cost of a new air ambulance.

## Years

In total project organisers hope to expand the study to other areas around the country, testing 500 people in total across three years.

Mr Hancox said patients who wish not to receive blood transfusions won't be given them.

The project is being lead Dr Nicholas Crombie, consultant trauma anaesthetist at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, alongside the MAA charity and Gavin Perkins, Professor of Critical Care Medicine at the University of Warwick and a consultant at Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust.

Mr Hancox said: "Anyone who is suspected to be actively bleeding as the result of a traumatic injury, is over the age of 16 and not pregnant can be included in the trial.

"There is currently no ro-

# Bid to trace man's family

A coroner is seeking information about a man who died at Sandwell General Hospital.

Janis Puzaks, 59, is believed to have been born in Latvia but was of no fixed address when he died on January 16.

Anyone with information is asked to call Russell Williams on 0121 569 7200 or email Russell\_williams@sandwell.gcsx.gov.uk

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## Day hospice services are on the move

A DAY hospice in Oldbury will move all its services to Rowley Regis Hospital, health bosses have announced.

It follows a 12-week public consultation on Bradbury House after bosses said the building was 'no longer fit for purpose'.

The hospice in Wolverhampton Road, open four days a week, provides short programmes of care for patients across Sandwell.

Bosses say the range of services that are needed to ensure 'quality care' cannot be provided from the current site due, which is not suitable for people with severe mobility restrictions. Bosses also have concerns about the site's security.

Services will be transferred by April 1 and transport will be provided to Rowley Regis Community Hospital, helping up to 60 patients, five days a week.

## Dieter hopes to inspire others

A WOMAN who changed her life by losing over four stone is shaping a new career in helping others with their weight-loss.

Jade Bishop has started her own Slimming World classes at Blackheath Coronation Social Club on Tuesdays, from 7pm. The 26-year-old from Rowley Regis hopes her own transformation will inspire others after she joined Slimming World in Blackheath and dropped to nine stone. Call 07599652436.

## FOCUS ON BLACKHEATH & ROWLEY REGIS

# Machine offers fire-free eco-friendly cremations

A ROWLEY Regis Crematorium is set to get a new £300,000 machine, which uses eco-friendly chemicals rather than flames. It is said to be the first of its kind in the UK.

Called the Resomator, is already used in America and speeds up the cremation process while producing less harmful emissions.

Estimated to cost in the region of £300,000, the new system is to be brought in as part of the £1.3 million revamp of the crematorium off Powke Lane.

The scheme uses technology which means bodies of loved ones will be turned to ashes using water-based chemicals.

A special wool coffin is placed into the Resomation chamber, and then body tissues are rapidly broken down in an alkaline solution, leaving pure white bone ash. This can be returned to bereaved families in an urn as it is following a traditional cremation.

### Alternative

The process which takes on average three to four hours is considered an eco-friendly alternative to traditional cremation because there are no emissions from the facility and the machinery is said to emit no significant noise.

The council will need to consult Severn Trent Water,

as any waste from the unit would be pumped to the main drainage on the site.

An application for the inclusion of the Resomator in the crematorium's expansion has been submitted to planners. Sandwell Council states: "Resomation allows individuals and families to express their environmental concerns and values in a very positive manner."

The device is produced in West Yorkshire but so far the only three in operation are in America. The Rowley Regis crematorium is one of two UK sites being considered for a Resomator.

Resomation Ltd's founder Sandy Sullivan said: "Resomation now offers a new, innovative yet dignified approach which uses significantly less energy and emits significantly less greenhouse gasses than flame cremation."

By Judith Hawkins



Five times gold medal winner Ellie Simmonds with pupils at The Westminster School

## Swimming golden girl visits pupils

PARALYMPIC gold medalist Ellie Simmonds was welcomed to a Rowley Regis school, where she chatted with students.

The Westminster School hosted the Walsall-born swimming star as pupils heard an overview of her career to date and watched her in action on a big screen.

After firing a range of questions at Ellie, the children heard that she trains for 18 hours per week and has been swimming since the age of four.

The 22-year-old shared with the students that she cries whenever she is really happy and that her favourite food is cake!

School administrator Rachael Saunders said: "Ellie brought in three of her five medals for the children to hold. It was a shock how heavy the medals are!"

She won swimming gold medals at the Paralympic Games in Beijing, London and Rio.

## Former DIY store now a charity shop

A FORMER DIY store in Blackheath has been turned into a Compton Hospice charity shop.

The clearance store, in Halesowen Street, stocks a range of items including men's and women's clothing, accessories, homeware and small items of furniture.

The shop is also offering customers a 'Bag a Bargain' promotion where customers can buy 10 items for £10 on selected items.

The charity shop will be open from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday.

Compton Hospice are seeking volunteers at the shop, anyone who can help is asked to call 01902 774545.

The store had stood empty since the closure of Home Zone last year.

The building was also the landmark menswear store Burtons during the 1960s.

## Sale in aid of partnership

A TABLE top sale will be taking place to raise money for the Shell Corner Partnership group.

It will be held at St Paul's Community Hall, in Vicarage Road, Blackheath, on February 11 from 10am to 1pm.

There will be an entry fee of 20p and it costs £5 to hire a table.

Shell Corner has been identified as a priority for regeneration and Dudley Council has produced a strategy for the area.

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## All aboard for the Shuttle sing-along



Passengers on the Stourbridge Shuttle are serenaded with the new song by members of Black Country Ukulele Band

COMMUTERS are urged to 'Gerron Board' a Black Country rail system in a new song written by former Dexys Midnight Runners bassist, Pete Williams.

Williams has joined forces with The Black Country Ukulele Band to create the catchy tune, which has been uploaded to the SoundCloud.

The song celebrates everything about the Stourbridge Shuttle and now a video could be made to accompany the quirky song.

Alan Love, from the band, said: "We went to Fred Skidmore's studios in Stourbridge and it all went from there.

"We recorded it over two days and put it together and it was really exciting.

"When we first heard the song we loved it. The lyrics were wonderful. It has a real Black Country heart to it."

## Lyrics

He added: "The shuttle is brilliant. It's a wonderful concept and to be able to promote it in this way is great."

The lyrics about the shuttle keep the Black Country vibe alive with lines such as 'you've bin up Brum, or further afield, a long way from home. You see that little tram, there is plenty of

space, you don't have to cram you can be who you am. So gerron board the Stourbridge Shuttle'.

And 'seven days a week every 10 minutes or so just take your pick, when its icy, sleet and rain or under the sun never complain not this little train'.

John Parry, from Parry People Movers Limited, added: "It's a lovely song that works incredibly well about our little shuttle."

To listen to the song in full, visit at <https://soundcloud.com/petewilliams/gerron-board-the-stourbridge-shuttle/s-a06DY>

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# Threats will not halt mother's campaign

A FAMILY who turned heart-break into fundraising after their daughter was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis have been targeted by internet trolls.

Mother Samantha Carrier, from Dudley, has been subjected to abuse since she uploaded a video on social media which showed the harsh realities of the disease.

It showed Samantha performing physiotherapy on her daughter, Daisy, which she has to do to help the child breathe better by clearing mucus from her chest.

Thousands of people have criticised Samantha over the video, which has received over 150,000 views, asking such questions as 'how can you do that to a baby' and 'you'll break her ribs'.

But Samantha states that the threats she's received have 'spurred' her on to fundraise for Cystic Fibrosis Trust.



Samantha Carrier with daughter Daisy, who has to have regular physiotherapy

family have raised more than £1,100.

Samantha said that she has also had positive messages from parents around the world.

"I've had mothers from Korea and America message me and tell me how fantastic the video. It's nice to see that the campaigning I'm doing is helping people all around the world."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin MP is backing the family by campaigning for a potential life-saving drug for the disease, Orkambi, which can treat the symptoms, to be available in the UK.

Mr Austin urged the Government to listen to the recommendations of the NHS Accelerated Access Review which could change the way the new drugs are assessed.

He said in Parliament: "These new treatments can transform people's lives, but thousands of people are set to miss out on these new drugs under the current rules."

"That's why I'm campaigning to make the Government change the rules on commissioning new treatments."

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# Young Voices are heard at top venue



David Lawrence conducts the massed youth choirs



Belle Vue Primary School's Sarah White takes a bow

**THOUSANDS** of youngsters have been singing their hearts out as part of one of the largest school choir concerts in the world.

Schools from across the Black Country took part in the Young Voices 2017 event, which is being held at Birmingham's Genting Arena, in front of thousands of proud parents.

Last Tuesday evening's show was just the first of six nights of Young Voices concerts in the city. Choirs had been in training since

September, learning all 12 songs they performed during the show, as well as all the choreography that saw them get to their feet and dance the night away.

The children, aged from around eight to 12 years old, were some of 130,000 who are involved in the Young Voices 2017 project, which sees youngsters perform at major venues across the UK and internationally. They perform in their

school choirs as part of the collective YV Choir.

The project began in the mid-1990s when managing director David Lewis came up with the idea of making music accessible to all children.

## Therapy

Now Young Voices hosts 22 concerts around the UK each year, and in doing so, raises money for good causes, which this year includes music therapy charity Nordoff Robbins and anti-hunger charity FareShare.

The glittering event was hosted by Gigi Morley and conducted by David Lawrence. The children sang a variety of songs from Birdhouse In Your Soul, originally performed by They Might Be Giants, to Stronger Together, made popular by Gareth Malone and the Military Wives choir.

The youngsters even wowed the audience with their rendition of African song Maliswe, in the Zulu language, accompanied by African drums and instruments.

Elston Hall pupil Graham Fletcher, aged 11, of Bushbury said: "This is the first time I've performed here. I really love music and I think it's great that we have come out and have the chance to sing together."

Katie Perry, head of music at the school said: "It's amazing to see them all here. They've really been



Some of the thousands of youngsters at the concerts

looking forward to it and fitting in extra practice when they can."

Dudley's Alder Coppice Primary School were involved as was Cradley CE Primary, whilst Belle Vue school, Stourbridge also took part. Andrea Perrett, musical director and teacher said: "It is one of the most exciting highlights of the school year for the children and they absolutely love it."

Pupils from Sandwell's Tividale Community Primary School and St John's C of E Primary Academy, as well as St Mary's CE (VC) Primary in Kingsvingford too part as well.

The song Over The Hills took the audience on a 'musical tour through the British Isles' which ended in the children singing in Welsh. Some of the songs were also translated into sign language.

The show also included guest

performers, including street dancers Urban Stride, beatbox artists The Beatbox Collective and Irish musician Tabby Callaghan, who finished third on the first series of The X Factor in 2004. He performed his rendition of Guns N' Roses classic, Sweet Child o' Mine. Jazz artist Natalie Williams took to the stage to perform Keane's Somewhere Only We Know and Nina Simone classic I Got Life.

Ben Lewis, managing director of Young Voices said: "When we started this event in 1996 we never thought we would end up here. The popularity of Young Voices has really snowballed and I think that's because we are giving children a unique opportunity – to perform in the same arena where The Vamps and One Direction have performed."



Pupils from St Mary's with teachers Peter Booth and Anne-Marie Greet

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# Care home with a difference

## COMMERCIAL FEATURE

**YEW TREE** nursing home is a lovely home set in the countryside of Romsley, in beautifully maintained grounds and enjoying the company of their resident animals, a pony, cat and home-reared chickens.

Life at Yew Tree Nursing Home is focused on the resident. In spite of requiring nursing care the residents are encouraged to enjoy quality of life.

Reminiscence is so valuable to our residents. It gives them the opportunity to draw back on happy times, memories, with those dear to them.

The management team, Carol Lightwood and Vicky Mills, planned and recreated a wedding day for the residents to enjoy, just one of their many events throughout the year.

All residents and families were invited to the special day and many of our residents enjoyed wearing wedding attire for the day embracing the special occasion.

The setting was in the garden lounge which was fully decorated in a wedding theme.

The residents were delighted with the wedding decorations. The room looked spectacular.

The residents were involved in wedding themed activities which started from the moment breakfast was served.

Residents were able to cast their minds back to their own special day as preparations got under way.

Workshops were arranged for hairdressing and make up for our brides of the day and button hole making for the gentlemen.

The beautifully prepared and attractively presented wedding breakfast was served for all to enjoy.

Following a delicious meal, the highlight of the day was the wedding gown fashion show with staff members modelling wedding gowns and bridal attire from previous times showing a variety of designs and colours from over the period.



The wedding celebrations which took place at Yew Tree as part of the effort to offer nursing home residents a special day

One staff member was provided with the honour of wearing the original wedding dresses of three of our residents and although a few tears were shed the residents commented on how happy they were to see and touch their own wedding gown, being worn after all these years.

The afternoon continued with a party with entertainment supplied by wedding singer Paulo Pinto who ensured all of our residents felt special providing a variety of songs for the residents to sing and dance along to. Our finale

for the days was a full wedding buffet with a variety of canapés to suit everyone's tastes and of course, the cutting of our wedding cake was undertaken by one of our residents who were celebrating their birthday.

The wedding day had positive impact on everyone's wellbeing, it was an uplifting experience

Yew Tree Nursing Home is a home with a difference. Yew Tree has activities staff from 9am to 6pm seven days a week to ensure the residents are able to enjoy meaningful

occupation throughout the day. Residents are encouraged to pick up past hobbies and have the opportunity to take up new ones too.

The residents have a full diary with dates to look forward to.

Vicky produces the Yew Tree Gazette each month which is full of the home's news, featuring home life, home improvements, and other items as well as outings to be enjoyed by residents and family.

Residents are also encouraged to join community events in and around the village



Singer Paulo Pinto got the 'wedding guests' in a party mood

and have over the years successfully raised money for local charities to include Birmingham Dogs Home, Air Ambulance and most recently they raised a whopping £1,000 for Mary Stevens Hospice at our summer garden party.

Moving into a nursing home such as Yew Tree can be a very positive life changing experience for those who need good quality, holistic nursing care in a professional yet homely, safe environment.

## CONTACT US

**Name:** Yew Tree Nursing Home

**Address:** Yew Tree Place, Romsley, B62 0NX

**Phone:** 01562 710809

**Website:** [www.yewtreenursinghome.co.uk](http://www.yewtreenursinghome.co.uk)

# Yew Tree

## NURSING HOME

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# Vintage saleroom is ringing the changes

## ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



**SOMEONE asked me recently if vintage telephones sell well at auction – and the answer was definitely yes!**

Of course, we do still have landline phones but do they look as nice as those old ones with the proper dials? I don't think so and neither do some of visitors to the saleroom.

Old telephones in good condition are very much sought after by collectors, who could be looking for anything from a Victorian wall variety to the slim-line 'trim phones popular in the 1970s.



The first telephone was patented by in 1876 by the famous Alexander Graham Bell, who invented it in the wake of numerous experiments involving early hearing devices – both his wife and mother were deaf and this inspired his work.

The first wooden wall phones were produced throughout the late 18th century and well into the early 1900s and collectors are always on the lookout for these.

The earpiece of these early phones was on a cable with the bell housed in a 'bellset' and calls were made via the operator prior to the advent of the automatic switchboard in 1912 – it was only then that the 'dial' was incorporated into the design.

The famous Bakelite telephone made its first appearance in the 1930s, with black being the colour of these early models (later Bakelite phones were supplied in other colours including ivory, red and green).



The 'candlestick' phones were introduced in the late 1800s, some of them being manufactured in nickel plate, and they continued to be used well into the 1940s.

They are also sometimes called a desk stand or 'stick' phone and are very popular with the collectors – and they look great displayed in a home or a vintage-style office!

Moving closer to more recent times, the

'trim phone' that some people considered a little bit over-the-top and very seventies in style is now very much a collector's item so see if you still have one lurking at the back of a cupboard.

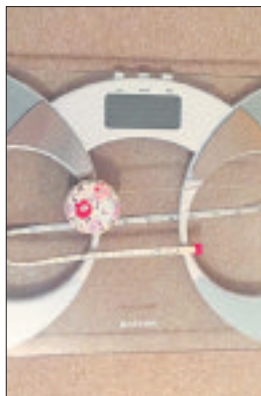
And the original mobile phones that we now refer to as 'bricks' as used by Del Boy in Only Fools and Horses are also of value, the Motorola DynaTAC 8000X, introduced in 1983, sold for a staggering £1,000 a while back!

So have a good hunt around and see what might be lurking in the attic or the garage, you might be lucky enough to find a lovely old Bakelite phone or even an eighties Motorola.

- Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.
- The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, on Tuesday, February 7. Viewing will be during the weekend and on the Monday prior to the auction.

- New sale bidders are advised to attend the saleroom early on auction day to register and be allocated a bidding number.

# Dieting? Try not to feel deprived and miserable



Diets can be hard to stick to

THERE will be very few of us who haven't considered or followed a diet at some time in our lives and at this time of year when we all find ourselves making resolutions and plans for the year, often adding diets and exercise to the unattainable long list of wishes!

It is a very human thing to dislike the way we look and the magazines gracing our newsagent shelves and online constantly remind us of our dissatisfaction.

We are inundated with choice, the Cambridge diet, Slimming World, Lean in 15, Atkins, Juice...the list goes on, the bookshelf creaks with the weight of another healthy cookbook. Celebrities are reported to lose pounds eating only cabbage or other newly found foodstuff or supplement. They rarely show us the pain of hours with a personal trainer and the damage caused to their bodies. Exercise is so important and there are gyms everywhere tempting us to sign up with free membership for a year with a monthly fee... but many people only manage around two months before giving up. The same applies to the celebrity fitness DVDs gifted at Christmas or bought in the sales but instead

## STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



of climbing into the car to go to the local shop, why not walk!

It becomes more difficult to define what is good for us and what is not. We are constantly advised not to eat foods that have been a regular on our tables for many years and we are blissfully unaware of the pesticides sometimes used on our crops and animal feed.

The newest concept is to eat more insects because they are high in protein and fat and as they reproduce so efficiently could help with the global food crisis that threatens us, our levels of consumption taking its toll on our limited resources. The United Nations are already looking into the possibilities of expanding this. Small quantities and unappetising, the next diet craze maybe?

Ultimately, we all need to find a diet to suit us and one which we can maintain for a

long period of time, one which doesn't starve our bodies of the nutrients important to our wellbeing and effectively allows us to change our eating lifestyle. Balance is important, five portions of fruit and vegetables a day is good for us, processed food may be cheaper but includes some chemicals or additives, fresh is always best, we also need to drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration and help with digestion and we need to sleep well to allow our bodies to recover from the daily grind.

I cannot keep to a diet myself, I so dislike starving myself of the foods I love but I find if I keep active and eat well, avoiding too much alcohol and sugary foods, I tend to feel better and maintain an 'acceptable' body shape. Market Drayton has a market for our fresh fruit and vegetables, Sherwood Wholefoods for ethical and environmentally sound foods and Buttercross and Fordhall Farms for local meat products. Whatever you choose to do this year, try not to make yourself miserable or unhappy and good luck!

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If you're planning a money makeover, some simple lifestyle changes could help to keep your budget on track for 2017

# Time for a detox – by cleaning up finances



It can be helpful to keep a money diary

**WE all like to start the New Year with good intentions, so what better time to knock your 2017 budget into shape with a financial detox?**

Getting into simple habits which can help to save a little bit of cash here and there can soon add up.

Even if you aren't expecting to get much of a pay rise this year, there might be other ways that you can make some more room in your budget. So how can you give yourself a "pay rise" for 2017?

Hannah Maundrell, editor in chief at money.co.uk, says: "The secret is to set aside a little bit of time each week to keep on top of this, even if it's just 15 minutes."

She suggests, firstly, making a budget that lists all the cash going in and coming out each month.

Remember to include outgoings that aren't necessarily household bills such as gym memberships, money going into savings accounts or music subscriptions.

Maundrell then suggests checking the following to see if you could get a better deal:

### Gas and electricity

Those on a variable rate tariff could potentially save a couple of hundreds of pounds a year by locking into a fixed cheap rate.

### By Vicky Shaw

#### Debts

If you've got spare cash in savings, think about using it to pay down your mortgage or credit cards you're paying interest on. It could make your money work harder for you. Remember to keep a buffer in case you get an unexpected bill.

#### Credit cards

If you're paying interest then a balance transfer could save you money and help you to pay the debt off faster. You can check your chance of getting accepted for many cards before you apply.

#### Broadband, landline and TV

Check what you're using and which channels you're watching and see if you could get the same deal elsewhere. If you want to stick with the same company, call them up and haggle.

#### Mobile phone

If you own your handset or aren't tied into a fixed contract, perhaps consider switching to a Sim only deal.

#### Water

If you're not on a meter, but have fewer people living in your house than bedrooms, you could potentially save money with a water meter.

#### Reclaim

Check whether you were mis-sold PPI or

hit with unfair bank charges in the past, or if you're entitled to compensation for delayed flights or trains. You don't need to pay a company to do this for you.

#### Insurance

Shop around. Even if you want to stay where you are, it's worth checking what you could pay for equivalent cover elsewhere and then using this to haggle your existing company down.

Some simple lifestyle changes could also help to keep your budget on track for 2017.

According to calculations from Standard Life, ditching a morning coffee bought on the way to work could potentially save someone around £700 a year – depending on the size of their caffeine habit.

Shunning takeaways and snacks could also help. Standard Life estimates that cutting out "impulse buying" altogether could save someone as much as £600 across 2017.

Citizens Advice also has some tips for organising your finances for 2017.

It suggests keeping a diary note of annual contracts that are up for renewal, such as mobile phone or car insurance and using comparison websites to see if you can get a cheaper deal before the date approaches.

You could also sign up to any free text alerts offered by your bank so you know when you are close to going into your overdraft.





Grandson Howard Forti and family with the memorial



Members of The British Legion with their standards, seen during the silence



The Phillips family, with Robert on the far left, brother Gus seated in front of him and elder brother Sid who was killed at the Somme, on the far right



Children from Eaton Park Valley Primary School seen at the ceremony



Sandwell mayor Councillor Julie Webb

# Tribute to Great War hero

**A TRIBUTE set in stone has been unveiled to a First World War hero in his hometown during a moving ceremony in front of veterans, schoolchildren and proud family members.**

The memorial at the foot of the cenotaph in Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, honours Captain Robert Phillips, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for outstanding bravery in rescuing his wounded commanding officer under ferocious fire in the Mesopotamia campaign.

Last Wednesday's ceremony, which took place in dazzling sunshine, was led by Rev Dwayne McQuaid who told the gathered crowd: "The courage and devotion he showed is an inspiration to us all."

The soldier's grandson, 50-year-old Howard Forti, from Surrey, unveiled the memorial stone before wreaths were laid by the West Midlands' High Sheriff Dr Keith Bradshaw, Sandwell mayor Councillor Julie Webb, members of the Royal British Legion and local veterans' groups.

And there was applause for a touching musical tribute by the choir of nearby Eaton Valley Primary School, who sang Remember.

The service took place just a mile from foundry worker son Captain Phillips' former home in Hill Top where he was born in 1895. After attending King Edwards VI Grammar School in Aston, Birmingham, he embarked on a 40-year career with the Inland Revenue, interrupted only by his war service. In 1913 he was transferred to the department's London office where he enlisted in March 1914 with the 1st/15th Company of the London Regiment. Six months later he was com-

missioned in the 13th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment but attached to the 9th Battalion as a temporary lieutenant, later promoted to the rank of captain.

He was wounded at Gallipoli in 1915 but went on to become involved, the following year, in fierce fighting against the Turkish army near Kut in Mesopotamia, modern-day Iraq.

On the January 25, 1917, a Turkish counter attack had driven the leading British troops out of their trenches. Colonel Edward Henderson, his commanding officer, was severely wounded during the battalion's assault to regain the British position. Lieutenant Phillips had been trying to lay telephone cables with a team of signallers who were killed in the attempt.

He turned his attention to rescuing Col Henderson where he lay wounded in No Man's Land. After several attempts made under intense fire,



Captain Phillips in his uniform

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# Spotting the signs and dealing with damp

DAMP plaster is unpleasant to live with, especially at this time of year, and can affect the whole room, but what can you do about it? JULIA GRAY gives the following advice:

1. Penetrating damp happens when there's a problem with the fabric of the building.

While the damp usually moves horizontally from the outside in, it can appear on ceilings (see below) as well as walls.

Defective or missing flashing on the roof, defective or blocked guttering, defective pointing and brickwork, and cracked or missing render typically cause penetrating damp, although there may be other causes. Sometimes what appears to be damp may actually be condensation.

2. If the lower part of a wall is damp, it's probably rising damp (water coming up from the ground).

The solution may be a new damp-proof course, installed by a specialist damp company (other damp-proofing solutions are available).

Once the bricks are damp, the moisture usually transfers to the plaster inside – tell-tale signs include dark patches and blistering/bubbling paint, but it's not always obvious that the plaster is damp. Damp plaster should be removed to expose the bricks underneath – letting them dry out is a good idea, but it can take a very long time.

3. If you can't wait, get a plasterer to do a waterproof render and then replaster, so there's a barrier between the moisture in the bricks and the new plaster.

This is a messy process and if you get a specialist damp company to do it, it may be expensive, but they should provide a guarantee.

Most plasterers won't give you a guarantee, but should charge a lot less.

The key is to get an experienced and reputable plasterer who knows what they're doing and uses the right products. If the waterproof render isn't done correctly, the damp will come back through the plaster, which is disastrous.

4. Sometimes the damp-proof course is simply being prevented from doing its job.

You should be able to see it along your home's exterior walls – look for a row of small holes a little way up from the ground. In old properties, slate was used as the original damp-proof course and is sometimes still in place.

If the level of your garden, patio or path is higher than the damp-proof course, for example, it won't work properly.

5. Perhaps you've noticed damp on a chimney breast, or where the chimney breast would have originally been?

This could be because the chimney stack needs repairs, the chimney pot isn't capped, or the chimney breast isn't ventilated properly indoors.

When a fireplace opening is sealed up, a vent should be fitted, but isn't always (it's a relatively straightforward DIY job to fit one), and vents can get blocked with dust and debris.

A defective chimney or roof can cause damp on the ceilings below, especially if there's no roofing felt, which is sometimes the case in old properties.

## PRODUCT OF THE WEEK

If you need a wall-mounted wooden handrail for a staircase, look no further than Cheshire Mouldings' easy-to-fit Rail in a Box (RRP from £100, see [www.cheshiremouldings.co.uk](http://www.cheshiremouldings.co.uk), or call 0800 085 3475 for local stockists).

It's available in oak or pine, with chrome or brushed-nickel metal fittings, and would look great in both period and modern properties.

The wooden rail comes in four 1m lengths (you can use as many as you need), with connector fittings to join them together and end fittings to keep them in place.

The beautifully crafted oak and brushed-nickel rail is particularly lovely and would make a great addition to any staircase.

## HOW-TO TIP

The quickest and easiest DIY way to deal with damp plaster is to cover it with anti-damp paint and then plaster the topcoat.

Anti-damp paint is usually really thick, so apply it with a brush (to get lots on) and then use a mini foam roller to get a good, flat finish.

Leave it to dry thoroughly – see the manufacturer's instructions – and apply a second coat if recommended. Anti-damp paint works well for a while, but, in my experience, is rarely able to hold back damp long term.



The industrial look is edgy and contemporary



Keep it simple with just one main colour to add interest



Beanbags and blankets add extra comfort

# Go wild, try tropical or embrace cosy comfort

By Sam Wylie-Harris

## PLANNING a little home makeover for 2017?

You can make the most of your space with some simple changes to fabrics, furnishings and decoration.

Here we run through six key looks to consider.

### A SHORE THING

You don't need to book a seaside holiday to be near the coast, when you can introduce a few nautical-themed pieces and a colour palette of blues and corals.

Chambray stripes, fish motifs on china-ware, anything with an anchor and rattan lanterns will all flow easily together. This timeless look never loses its charm.

### TOTALLY TROPICAL

Creating a tropical paradise at home is far quicker – and less stressful and expensive – than booking a long-haul flight. Think lush palms and plants galore – whether the real thing (or you can get some great, zero-maintenance fake ones these days!) in pots around rooms, or in designs on wallpaper, fabrics or in artwork.

Pink flamingo cushions, pineapple-shaped cocktail shakers (there are still tons of metallic pineapple decos in shops right now), bird print fabrics, grapefruit and citrusy scented candles, and a bamboo peacock chair. Just go wild...

### FRENCH COUNTRY LIVING

Visit the French countryside with bleached wood accessories, cast iron tables, vintage cupboards, a rustic kitchen table, soft furnishings, antique linens, damask tablecloths and Provence-style bed linen.

This classic look is calming and never goes out of style.

### TRIBAL TOUCH

Travel has never been more popular – and, naturally, it's influencing our interiors, too.

With a mix of Asian, Indian and South American treatments, a vibrant colour palette, embroidered floor cushions, pom-pom-adorned throws, 'a little something' from a souk, arts and crafts from various cultures and an ethnic rug can hint at Zanzibar style with a modern, bohemian take.

Inspiring, interesting and you can add 'souvenirs' as daily reminders of amazing trips you've enjoyed.

### INDUSTRIAL

Exposed brick walls, stripped-back floorboards, furniture made from hard-wearing materials such as enamel, aluminium and oak, evoke an edgy, industrial feel that complements monochrome tones and graphic prints.

Hipster and contemporary, cast iron dishes, metal work and wire storage will suit the inventory.

### AIRY FAIRY

The ethereal look taps into our current love affair with all things hygge (in other words; cosy, comforting and feel-good) while also being light, cool and refreshing.

Think tactile textures, pastel hues and a mix of patterns that are elegant and graceful.

Using premium materials, such as marble and brass, quilted throws, embroidered cushions and a mix of tableware patterns completes the look.



The nautical look is always popular and can easily be adapted to suit virtually any room in the house



Stripes and leaves create a focal point for this striking interior



Bright colours will help create a holiday vibe



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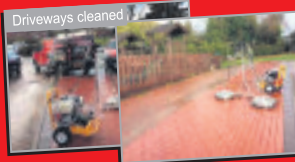
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Kedgeree with salmon is among the simple, nutritious dishes listed



Mum's sausage casserole is ideal for the cold winter evenings

# Tom shares food tips and more in Daley plan

By Kate Whiting

**WHEN** you picture Tom Daley, he's probably in pair of Speedos or a Team GB tracksuit – not an apron. But the Olympic diver is showing off his culinary skills in a new healthy eating cookbook, *Tom's Daily Plan*.

“One of the things people don't necessarily know about me is I enjoy cooking. I've always been a lover of food – if I'm not diving or sleeping, I'm eating,” says the 22-year-old, laughing.

“I live my life for the next meal. I'm one of those people who thinks, ‘I've just finished lunch, OK what's for dinner?’ – because athletes are always hungry.

“In my case, food is fuel,” adds the Plymouth-born athlete, “so I have to make sure I'm eating the right things to get the best out of myself every day.”

Along with simple workouts and fitness tips, the book is stuffed full of mouthwatering recipes that are healthy but actually hearty too, including his mum Debbie's Sunday Lunch and Sausage Casserole, and California-born fiancé Dustin Lance Black's Scotch Eggs.

Daley's lifelong love of food started with baking sessions at his nan and granddad's.

“I remember me and my brothers all there with the bowl, arguing over who got to lick the spoon! As I got older, I wanted to take more of a role in the kitchen, so my grandma taught me how to cook vegetable soups and the broccoli pasta bake that's in the book. That's one of the first things I learnt to make.”

## Unwind

He's had cooking lessons at Ashburton Cookery School in Devon, and likes to unwind in the kitchen after a day's training by cooking for his Oscar-winning screenwriter fiancé Black, at the flat they share near London's Borough Market.

“I make him breakfast every single morning and then in the evenings, because the way the time difference works for him when he's in the UK, everyone [in the US] starts waking up at about five o'clock, six o'clock, so he's always on the phone sorting out his work stuff at that time when I'm cooking.

“But we do share it [cooking duties] quite often and he's really really good on the barbecue.

“In the summer, we barbecue three times a week, just to cook chicken and marinated stuff; he does a good southern fried chicken thing. So some of his food isn't the healthiest...” he admits with a laugh.

Daley, who won bronze medals at London 2012 and in Rio last summer, and trains for up to five hours a day, admits he has sweet tooth, but gets around it by steering clear of “the sugar train”.

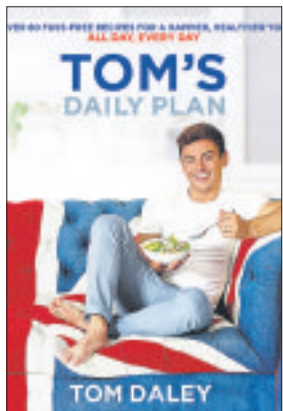
“As soon as you get on it in the mornings, if you have a sugary cereal or breakfast, then by about 11 o'clock, you think, ‘Oh I need something else to get a bit of sugar’, and once you've had that, you want more and more and more.”



Tom Daley the Olympic diver is showing off his culinary skills in a new healthy eating cookbook, *Tom's Daily Plan*



Hot cheesecakes with a naughty topping



The new book is available now

Fancy giving one of Daley's recipes a whirl?

### KEDGEREE WITH SALMON

(Serves 2)  
(495 calories per serving)  
200g salmon fillet  
1tbsp olive oil  
2 large spring onions, sliced into small rings  
3/4tsp curry powder

1/4tsp turmeric  
Good pinch of chilli flakes  
75g brown basmati rice  
275ml hot vegetable or chicken stock  
1 small courgette, finely grated  
60g frozen peas, thawed  
2 eggs  
2tbsp parsley, plus extra to garnish  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
Preheat the grill. Season the salmon fillet with salt and pepper and grill it for about 10 minutes until cooked. Set the fish aside until it's cool enough to handle, then flake it into large chunks.

Heat the oil in a saucepan and stir-fry the spring onions for two to three minutes until softened. Stir in the spices and season well, then continue to stir-fry for a minute or so to cook the spices.

Stir in the rice and cook for one minute to coat it in the spices. Pour the hot stock over the top and put a lid on the pan. Bring the stock to the boil, then turn the heat down low and cook for 20-25 minutes.

Take the lid off the pan and quickly spoon the grated courgette and peas on top of the rice. Cover the pan again and continue to cook for three to five minutes longer until all the water has been absorbed and the courgette and peas are tender.

Meanwhile, bring a small pan of water to the boil and cook the eggs for six minutes. Drain well and cover the eggs with cold water, then carefully peel off the shells.

Fluff up the rice and stir in the parsley and salmon flakes, then divide the kedgeree between two bowls. Halve the eggs, arrange them on top and scatter over a little more parsley if you like before serving.

# Car share concept is moving up a gear

**Like Airbnb for automobiles, car clubs are gaining popularity with owners and renters alike. Katie Wright looks at what's driving this sector of the sharing economy**

IN just a few years, it's become second nature for many of us to reach for the Uber app if we need a ride home, or to turn to Airbnb to find a flat to rent when we're heading off on holiday (or even find guests to stay in ours).

Now, the kind of app that combines those two services is growing in popularity.

The concept of 'car clubs' offering vehicles for hire and letting owners make money when their cars would otherwise be unused is proving a success.

CarPlus, a charity that supports developing clubs, lists 11 services operating in UK cities (you might recognise names like Zipcar or Hiyacar), plus more than 30 clubs limited to smaller areas.

Unlike traditional hire firms, with car clubs, vehicles are located in neighbourhoods, so members can find the nearest available rental online or with an app, then use a smart card to gain access and drive off.

For car owners, it works like Airbnb. List your car and take bookings online, then arrange for the key exchange and return.

The financial perks are obvious: renters get the use of a car when they need one, from as little as £3.50 an hour, without having to worry about tax, insurance, fuel and other costs, while owners can make extra cash to offset the expensive business of owning a car.

## Benefits

It's convenient, and can be a lifesaver on days when strikes or other transport disruption - an all too frequent occurrence in some parts - threaten to derail your plans.

There are environmental benefits too, as Carplus says for every car introduced to London by a car club, 10 privately-owned cars go off the road.

And, because renters tend to drive fewer short distances than owners, carbon emissions are reduced.

The latest entrant to the UK marketplace is Turo (turo.com), which has launched by partnering with

a selection of car hire entrepreneurs whose fleets include classic British cars like Mini Coopers and Rolls Royces (individuals will be able to list their cars later this year).

“With Turo, you know exactly what car you're hiring, rather than simply selecting a category which gives you an estimated type of car,” explains Matheus Riolfi, Turo director, UK.

## Economy

“And we will arrange delivery to wherever you need it, including at airports like Heathrow and Gatwick.”

While adoption here has been slower, the car sharing economy has really taken off in Berlin, where BMW-run service DriveNow has 200,000 members, compared to London's 24,000.

In fact, many Berliners are so keen on the scheme they're forgoing car ownership altogether.

The Car Club Strategy report last year stated that public awareness is a problem, as only 37% of people polled had heard of car clubs.

Let's hope that improves as more clubs open up, because a money-saving (or making), traffic-easing, pollution-reducing transport method is good news for everyone.

## Technology latest

Meanwhile, the future is quiet according to Samsung.

Following the success of Pokemon GO last year, in 2017 we're going to see augmented reality taken to new heights. For instance, this could see a merger with virtual reality headsets to give users an even more immersive experience.

That's according to Samsung's forecast for the next year, which also predicts we'll be creating more 360-degree content to share our experiences with others.

But the tech giant also reckons we'll see a trend for 'quiet' innovations, as wearables become integrated into our clothes and we use technology.

This could include mindfulness lessons and heart rate sensors – to escape the stresses of everyday life, rather than adding to them.





# fast the ticket



**Red good!**

See Page 25



## Bye Sabbath

One last hoorah for Ozzy  
and the boys – Page 25



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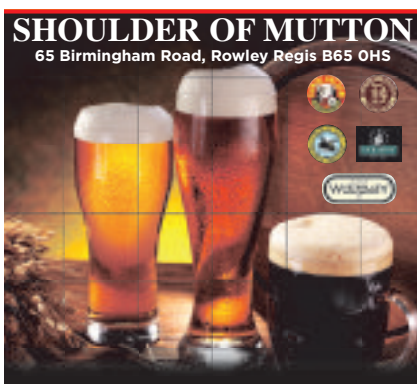
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See [www.gentingarena.co.uk](http://www.gentingarena.co.uk)

## Wonderland



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See [www.atgtickets.com/shows/wonderland/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham](http://www.atgtickets.com/shows/wonderland/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham)

## Karnataka



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See [www.therobin.co.uk](http://www.therobin.co.uk)

## Macka B



**Monday, 8pm**  
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**T.Rextasy**  
Sun, £20.50  
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.  
Call 01527 871580

**Classic Rock Show**  
Sun, £24.50 - £34.50  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

**Itchy Feet Birmingham**  
Tue,  
The Jam House, Birmingham,  
B3 1QU.  
Call 0121 200 3030

**The Brew – Shake**  
**The Tree UK Tour**  
Wed,  
The Slade Rooms,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1HP.  
Call 01902 552122

## CLASSICAL

**Mark Bebbington (piano)**  
Tonight,  
Bromsgrove Concerts,  
B61 8LG.  
Call 01527 836147

**Montparnasse**  
Tomorrow,  
MAC,  
Cannon Hill Park,  
Birmingham,  
B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**Gospel central**  
Wed,  
The Jam House,  
Birmingham,  
B3 1QU.  
Call 0121 200 3030

**Stourport Choral Society**  
Wed,  
Areley Kings Village Hall,  
Areley Common,  
Stourport-on-Severn,  
DY13 0NB.  
Call 07939 318973

## POP

**ABBA Mania**  
Tonight,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham,  
B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**Donny Osmond**  
Tonight,  
Genting Arena,  
Birmingham,  
B40 1NT.  
Call 0121 780 4141

**ABBA – Swede Dreamz**  
Tomorrow, £8  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,  
DY8 1JN.  
Call 01384 397 177  
or 07986 577 661

**Sunday Classics**  
Sun,  
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B12 0NH.  
Call 0121 772 3822

**You Win Again – The Story of the Bee Gees**  
Wed,  
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,  
ST1 1AP.  
Call 0844 871 7649

**Sound Collective Presents:**  
**Union J + The Scheme**  
**+ Ian Erix + Taken**  
Thu, £20  
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,  
ST1 1DR.  
Call 01782 214991

## JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES, MOTOWN & REGGAE

**Whitney**  
Tonight, £23  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

**Birmingham Salsa Party**  
Tonight - tomorrow,  
The Lion Club, Birmingham,  
B24 9AA.  
Call 07961 514074

**Jacqui Dankworth and Charlie Wood**  
Tomorrow,  
Festival Drayton Centre,  
Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.  
Call 01630 654444

**Soul Party Night with Sarah Collins and Keep The Faith**  
Tomorrow, £12  
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,  
TF2 6EP.  
Call 01952 382382

**Jazz Tuesdays**  
Tue,  
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B12 0NH.  
Call 0121 772 3822

**Kenny Thomas**  
Thu, £40 - £50  
The Jam House, Birmingham,  
B3 1QU.  
Call 0121 200 3030

## FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

**Traditional Irish Music**  
Mon,  
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B12 0NH.  
Call 0121 772 3822

**Nathan Carter**  
Tomorrow,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**George Monbiot & Ewan McLennan: The Age Of Loneliness**  
Wed,  
MAC, Cannon Hill Park,  
Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**Swing From The Gull – Poetry Slam**  
Thu, £3  
The RoadHouse Birmingham,  
Kings Norton,  
B30 3DZ.  
Call 0121 246 2273

## COMEDY

**Sally-Anne Hayward, Freddie Farrell, Topping and Butch**  
Tonight - Sun, £15  
Jongleurs Comedy Club,  
Birmingham,  
B1 2HG.  
Call 08700 111 960

**George Egg: Anarchist Cook**  
Tomorrow, £10 - £12  
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.  
Call 01527 871580

**Shazia Mirza: The Kardashians Made Me Do It**  
Tomorrow, £12 - £14  
Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth,  
WV16 4BD.  
Call 01746 766477

**The Tommy Cooper Show**  
Tomorrow, £14  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

## THEATRE

**Evita**  
Tonight - tomorrow,  
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,  
ST1 1AP.  
Call 0844 871 7649

**What's In A Name?**  
Tonight - Thu  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.  
Call 0121 236 4455

**Dial M for Murder**  
Tonight - Thu  
Hall Green Little Theatre,  
Birmingham, B27 7RY.  
Call 0121 707 1874

**The Russian State Ballet Of Siberia – Coppelia**  
Tue,  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE.  
Call 01902 42 92 12

**Beyond The Barricade**  
Tomorrow, £19.50 - £21.50  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

**Recorded at the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow Bolshoi: Swan Lake**  
Sun, £10 - £16  
Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore, WR10 1BG.  
Call 01386 555028

**St Petersburg Ballet Theatre presents Swan Lake**  
Sun - Mon,  
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,  
ST1 1AP.  
Call 0844 871 7649

**The Russian State Ballet Of Siberia – Swan lake**  
Mon,  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE.  
Call 01902 42 92 12

**Wonderland**  
Mon - Thu,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**The Red Shoes**  
Tue - Thu,  
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.  
Call 0844 338 5000

## ARTS & CULTURE

**Stitch Social**  
Today,  
Creative Coffee Hub, Birmingham, B29 6HJ.  
Call 01215 727300

**Uncial Calligraphy**  
Tomorrow,  
Winterbourne House and Garden, Birmingham, B15 2RT.  
Call 0121 414 3003

**The 4 Elements photography exhibition**  
Tomorrow - Wed,  
B1, Birmingham, B1 3RB.  
See [www.thephotographicangle.co.uk](http://www.thephotographicangle.co.uk)

**Nobuko Imai Interactive Workshop**  
Sun,  
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG.  
Call 0121 331 5901

**Cinematic Time Machine: 42nd Street**  
Sun,  
The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, B5 4DY.  
Call 0121 643 7879

**Somewhere Never Travelled – Annette Pugh Solo Exhibition**  
Mon - Thu,  
Reuben Colley Fine Art, Birmingham, B3 2BB.  
Call 0121 236 0920

**Number 8 Readers' Group**  
Tue,  
Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore, WR10 1BG.  
Call 01386 555028

**Tales from the Museum Basement with Garston Phillips**  
Tue,  
Worcester City Art Gallery, WR1 1DT.  
Call 01905 25371

**Solihull Photographic Society – AV Competition**  
Tue,  
Solihull Women's Institute, B91 3DQ.  
Call 07815 165438

**Draw the Gardens – a botanical quest**  
Wed,  
Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham, B36 9BT.  
Call 0121 749 4100

## MISC. EVENTS

**Superslam Wrestling**  
Tonight,  
Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.  
Call 0844 871 7649

**Bilston Collectors Fair**  
Sun, £1 - £3  
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14.  
Call 01902 401211

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# It's end for Sabbath – but not for Ozzy

IT STARTED nearly five decades ago with a crack of thunder, a distant bell ringing and then a monstrous riff that shook the earth.

In that moment Heavy Metal was born, created by a young band from Birmingham.

And now it's come full circle, drawing to an end with the final eight shows ever by Black Sabbath. Ozzy Osbourne, Tony Iommi and Geezer Butler are returning home to close the final chapter in the final volume of the incredible Black Sabbath story.

Sabbath's farewell tour, The End, is currently wowing fans all over Europe, surpassing all previous tours with their most mesmerising production ever.

## Arena

It will culminate in two nights in their home town at the Genting Arena, Birmingham, with gigs last night (Thursday) and the big finale on Saturday.

And when the tour concludes, it will truly be The End – of one of the most legendary bands in rock 'n' roll history.

Singer Ozzy is aware of the band's mortality. Following a short period that took away Lemmy, David Bowie, Prince and others, he's aware that all things must end.

"Lemmy, man," he says. "That broke my heart. If someone was to say to me, 'what's your depiction of the heavy metal rock star?', I'd say Lemmy Kilmister."

Ozzy has had more than his fair share of brushes with the Grim Reaper. He's been down but not out. "Oh, f\*\*\*ing hell have I. Just ask my family. I've nearly died loads. I've had several stomach pumps, my heart stopped twice



Playing Brum together for the last time, Geezer Butler, Ozzy Osbourne, Tony Iommi

when I broke my neck on a quad bike. Every time I got stoned and drunk, I didn't get tipsy I got mashed.

"I haven't drunk for three years, I haven't smoked for 12 years, I don't do drugs any time. It's cool."

The band no longer features founding drummer Bill Ward, who left the fold in 2012 after a contract dispute. Ozzy, Tony and Geezer thundered on, releasing 13 in 2013, and embarking on a world tour.

They decided not to do a final album because

they didn't want it to fall short of the number 1 they achieved with 13.

But despite this being the band's final tour, Ozzy won't be retiring. "I'm not going to stop entirely," he says. "I'm not going to sit with my slippers on. We're just going to go in different directions."

"Black Sabbath, it's been up and down. And it's good that we've come back together at the end, more or less, to finish on a high note. It's a good way to do it."



# Sell-out likely for Red Shoes

ACCLAIMED choreographer Matthew Bourne brings his New Adventures dance company to Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday as part of his world premiere tour of The Red Shoes.

Bourne's take on one of the most famous movies made about ballet has been so eagerly anticipated that it is likely to sell out its run in Brum and has already been booked to return between July 19 and 22.

And that's no surprise given the way Bourne has invigorated the ballet scene with such productions as his radical male-orientated revamp of Swan Lake, the passionate Car Man, spectacular Edward Scissorhands and romantic vampire-style Sleeping Beauty.

## Created

The role of Victoria Page, the girl who dreams of being a great dancer, immortalised on screen by Moira Shearer, has been created by New Adventures star Ashley Shaw (pictured left), who was most recently seen as Aurora in Bourne's Sleeping Beauty. Rising star and fellow Aurora, Cordelia Braithwaite, also plays the role along with Sleeping Beauty favourite Katrina Lyndon in her principal role debut at certain performances.

For tickets see [www.birminghamhippodrome.com](http://www.birminghamhippodrome.com) or call 0844 338 5000.

Ballet is also on the agenda at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre where the Russian State Ballet of Siberia make their annual visit from Sunday to Tuesday.

This year's repertoire is The Nutcracker on Sunday (4pm), Swan Lake on Monday (7.30) and Coppelia on Tuesday (7.30).

See the website [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk) or call 01902 429212.

## Transatlantic folk unite for Brum gig

SHETLAND fiddler Aly Bain and US dobo master Jerry Douglas are joined by John Paul White, Tift Merritt, Dick Powell, Jim Lauderdale and ex-Fairground Attraction singer Eddi Reader for Transatlantic Sessions at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Thursday (Feb 9).

St Leonard's Horses (AKA Kieran Leonard) blends folk, country and rock at the Sunflower Lounge in Brum city centre this Saturday.

Guardian journalist George Monbiot and folk singer Ewan McLennan, who collaborated on album Breaking The Spell Of Loneliness, are at the MAC, in Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston on Wednesday.

## Wonders are full of melodic power pop

PENNSYLVANIA pop-punk outfit The Wonder Years follow up fifth album No Closer To Heaven with a gig at the O2 Institute tomorrow (Friday) with support from PUP and Tiny Moving Parts.

Howie Payne, from Liverpool group The Stands, is at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Tuesday.

X Factor boy band Union J play Brum's O2 Academy 2 on Wednesday featuring new member Casey Johnson from Stereo Kicks.

London guitar slingers Inheaven bring their wall of sound to Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms next Thursday (Feb 9) with Freak supporting.

## Anthrax are back among the living

IT'S a good week ahead for rock fans. As well as the Black Sabbath gigs at the Genting Arena (see above), New York thrash metal monsters Anthrax are back in Blighty for a series of gigs, including Birmingham's O2 Institute next Thursday, February 9.

The powerhouse five-piece fronted by Joey Belladonna will be blasting Digbeth with fans' favourite album, Among The Living, plus latest record For All Kings. Support from London's The Raven Age.

If you prefer your raw rock vintage style, rockabilly combo The Deadshots are at the Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, on Sunday.

## Short Breaks & Holidays

from only £55!

### Enjoy Britain

From seaside favourites to city delights....

### Liverpool Spectacular

2 DAYS

Sun 26 Feb £79	Beatles	Sun 26 Mar £79	Queen
Sun 5 Mar £79	Elvis	Sun 16 Apr £79	Beatles
Sun 12 Mar £79	Rod Stewart		

Who's included?  
• Coach travel with reserved seating throughout  
• One night dinner, bed & breakfast at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool  
• '2 for 1' evening bar for three hours  
• Inclusive Disco  
• Sensational tribute act  
• Free time to enjoy the city delights of Liverpool

### 2 DAY BREAKS IN BRITAIN

Sat 18 Feb	Emmerdale Studio Experience	£99
Sat 25 Feb	Skipton Market, Haworth & Emmerdale	£59
Sat 4 Mar	Chesterfield Market & York	£55
Sat 4 Mar	Torquay & Exeter	£59
Sat 4 Mar	Eastbourne & Brighton	£59
Sat 11 Mar	Beautiful Windermere & Skipton Market	£69
Sat 11 Mar	Norwich, Yarmouth & The Broads	£59
Sat 11 Mar	Tower of London & Canterbury	£99
Sat 11 Mar	Canterbury & Riverside London	£79
Sat 18 Mar	Durham & Whitby Luxury Weekend	£69
Sat 18 Mar	Beamish & Whitby	£89
Sat 18 Mar	Historic Chester & Liverpool	£69
Sat 18 Mar	Torquay & Bath	£59
Sat 25 Mar	Cheshire Oaks & Trafford Centre	£59

### Explore Europe

Explore the best of Europe....

### 4/5/7/14 DAY EUROPEAN BREAKS

Fri 10 Feb	4 Ostend Weekend Superdeal	£119
Fri 10 Feb	4 Paris Weekend Superdeal	£149
Fri 10 Feb	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The Kyriad	£279
Fri 10 Feb	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The B&B Hotel	£269
Fri 10 Feb	7 Venice Carnival Spectacular (2 evening meals)	£299
Mon 13 Feb	4 Ostend Special Breakaway	£129
Mon 13 Feb	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The Kyriad	£299
Mon 13 Feb	4 Disneyland Spectacular at Dream Castle	£339
Mon 13 Feb	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The B&B Hotel	£279
Mon 13 Feb	5 Ostend All Inclusive	£219
Mon 13 Feb	5 Rhine Valley Superdeal	£169
Mon 13 Feb	4 Rhine & Moselle All Inclusive	£199
Fri 17 Feb	4 Ostend Weekend Superdeal	£129
Fri 17 Feb	7 Venice Carnival Spectacular (2 evening meals)	£319

### Austrian Winter Wonderland

7 DAYS

Sun 19 Feb £459

Who's included?  
• Coach travel with reserved seating  
• Four nights dinner, bed & buffet breakfast plus overnight b&b on outwards & return journeys  
• Four nights included bar between 6pm-10pm with a choice of beers, wines and soft drinks at our resort hotel  
• Guided tours of Vipitino & Innsbruck  
• Horse-drawn sleigh ride  
• Journey on the Murrellarm Mountain Railway with inclusive lunch

### SHOWTIME

With inclusive admission to top shows & acts in 2017!

### Llandudno Grand & Anton & Erin

5 DAYS

Mon 20 March £209

Who's included?  
• Coach travel with reserved seating  
• Four nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the popular Grand Hotel, Llandudno  
• Sparkling nightly cabaret entertainment  
• Excursions featuring Snowdonia, Caernarfon & Bets-y-Coed  
• Admission to Anton & Erin - Live at the Venue Cymru, Llandudno.

### 2 DAY SHOWTIME BREAKS

Sat 18 Feb	Blood Brothers & Liverpool Special	£99
Sat 4 Mar	Sunny Afternoon & Historic York	£119
Sat 4 Mar	London & Star Wars Identities at the O2	£99
Sat 4 Mar	Dreamboats and Petticoats - Live in Manchester	£99
Sat 11 Mar	The X Factor Live Tour! & Leeds	£119
Sat 11 Mar	Beautiful - The Carole King Musical - London Showtime	£139
Sat 11 Mar	The Lion King - London Showtime	£149
Sat 11 Mar	Funny Girl - Live in Liverpool	£119
Thu 16 Mar	Frankly Sinatra Live in Concert	£99
Thu 16 Mar	Ollie Murs - Live in Liverpool	£139
Fri 17 Mar	The Magic of Motown & Liverpool	£99
Sat 18 Mar	The Full Monty & Historic York	£99
Sat 25 Mar	Disney On Ice & The Wildlife Park	£119
Sat 25 Mar	Jersey Boys - London Showtime	£139
Sat 25 Mar	Wicked - London Showtime	£139

### Special Events

Enjoy admission to sensational Special Events.

### 2 DAY SPECIAL EVENTS BREAKS

Sat 25 Mar	Manchester Bike Show & Liverpool	£89
Sat 1 Apr	Victoria at Harewood House	£89
Mon 3 Apr	Flying Scotsman Special	£119
Sat 15 Apr	London & The Tall Ships Regatta Easter Special	£119
Sat 22 Apr	Skipton Market & Harrogate Flower Show	£99
Sat 22 Apr	Cotswolds Wartime 1940's Special	£89
Tue 25 Apr	Gino's Italian Escape - Live!	£99
Sat 6 May	The London Motor Show	£99
Sat 13 May	Hobbycrafts, Stitch & Sew - Live!	£79
Sat 13 May	Abingdon Airshow & Historic Bath	£99
Sat 27 May	Chelsea Flower Show	£169
Sat 10 Jun	Ideal Home Show & Liverpool	£79
Sat 24 Jun	Victoria at Harewood House	£89
Sat 24 Jun	Harlow Carr Flower Show	£99

### The Grand National

2 DAYS

Steeple Chase Enclosure & Liverpool

Sat 8 April £119

Who's included?  
• Coach travel with reserved seating  
• One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel  
• Inclusive admission to the Steeplechase Enclosure for the Grand National  
• Visit to Liverpool.

### Family Fun

Great breaks for all the family!

### London & Harry Potter Studios Tour

2 DAYS

Sat 18 Feb	£119	Sat 15 Apr	£119
Sat 25 Mar	£119	Sat 20 May	£119
Thu 6 Apr	£119	Sat 10 Jun	£119
Thu 13 Apr	£119	Sat 15 Jul	£129

Who's included?  
• Coach travel with reserved seating  
• One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel  
• Free time to enjoy the attractions and delights of London  
• Inclusive admission to the Harry Potter Studios Tour at Warner Bros Studios.

### 2 DAY FAMILY FUN BREAKS

Sat 18 Mar	Legoland Spectacular	£99
Sat 15 Apr	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 15 Apr	Legoland Spectacular	£119
Sat 22 Apr	Longleat Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 29 Apr	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 20 May	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 27 May	Legoland Spectacular	£119
Sat 27 May	Longleat Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 3 Jun	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 17 Jun	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 24 Jun	Legoland Spectacular	£119
Sat 24 Jun	Longleat Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 1 Jul	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 22 Jul	Legoland Spectacular	£119

To book go to  
**nationalholidays.com**

formerly Travelstyle

**0844 571 4867**

PLUS!!! MANY MORE breaks available...

**NATIONAL HOLIDAYS**



## CHOICE



Tom Hardy

**Taboo (BBC1, 9.15pm)**  
A duel at dawn takes a surprising turn, as mercurial adventurer and would-be international business magnate James Delaney is blackmailed into a dangerous mission, one which takes the form of a deadly race against time. Meanwhile, Delaney's malevolent brother-in-law Thorne pushes his seething jealousy into a vicious and spiritual realm, and as the threat of an embarrassing loss to the colonial upstarts in the Americas rises, the animosity between the Crown and the East India Company escalates to new heights. Historical drama, starring Tom Hardy and Jefferson Hall.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Best Dishes Ever. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Six Nations Preview. 2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v Ireland (Kick-off 2.25pm). 4.30 Final Score. 5.30 BBC News. 5.40 Regional Programme. 5.50 Pointless Celebrities. (R) 6.40 **Let It Shine.** The talent contest changes tack, as Mel Giedroyc and Graham Norton introduce the next stage of the selection process. This week, the performing pop stars get a taste of being in groups for the first time, and Lulu takes up Amber Riley's former position on the judging panel. The theme for this round is "collaboration", with each group of boys teaming up with either Olly Murs, Kaiser Chiefs, Melanie C, Busta or Beverley Knight to perform three-song mega-sets in their new ensembles. After each performance, judges Dannii Minogue, Lulu, Martin Kemp and Gary Barlow must select five leads from each group to form the bands for next week's live round. 8.25 **Casualty.** The morning of Charlie's wedding arrives, and Cal and Ethan wake hung-over following a riotous the stag party. However, the pair have no memory of the previous night's events, Charlie is missing, and Cal seems to have acquired a mysterious suitcase, which is cuffed to his wrist. Retracing their steps takes them back to a B&B, a tattoo parlour and a strip club, leading to a deadly encounter with a criminal intent on reclaiming the suitcase. Meanwhile, Duffy worries that her groom has developed cold feet, Iain receives a visiting order from Gem, and Elle learns a second complaint has been made against her. 9.15 **Taboo.** James Delaney is blackmailed into accepting a deadly mission. 10.15 **BBC News;** Weather; National Lottery Update. 10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included Chelsea v Arsenal at Stamford Bridge. 12.00 **The NFL Show.** 12.35 **Film:** Disconnect. (2012) 2.25 **Weather** for the Week Ahead. 2.30 **BBC News.**

## BBC2

**6.50 Film:** Lady Luck. (1946) 8.25 **Film:** School for Scoundrels. (1960) 10.00 **Britain's Secret Seas.** (R) 11.00 **Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) 12.00 **A Cook Abroad:** Dave Myers' Egypt. (R) 1.00 **Film:** The Importance of Being Earnest. (2002) Oscar Wilde comedy, starring Rupert Everett and Colin Firth. 2.30 **Natural World.** (R) 3.30 **The World's Most Extraordinary Homes.** (R) 4.30 **Mastermind.** (R) 5.00 **University Challenge.** (R) 5.30 **Only Connect.** (R) 6.00 **Live Davis Cup Tennis.** Canada v Great Britain. Sue Barker introduces coverage of the doubles rubber on day two of the World Group first-round tie at The Arena at TD Place, Ottawa. Much of Britain's recent success in the competition has been down to their results in doubles ties, with Andy and Jamie Murray the favoured partnership, although Andy is missing from the British squad on this occasion. With commentary by Chris Bradnam, Jamie Baker and John Lloyd. 8.30 **Dad's Army.** A major decides Corporal Jones is too old to be in the Home Guard, asking him to prove his worth by completing an assault course. Comedy, starring Clive Dunn. (R) 9.00 **QI XL.** Guests Lucy Porter, Frankie Boyle and Ross Noble join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig to contemplate the theme "next" in this extended episode. As usual, correctness and even intelligence go out of the window in this quiz, in which the questions are so difficult points are awarded for the answers its questionmaster finds most interesting. 9.45 **Film: The Finding.** (2014) Premiere. A 1960s girls' school is rocked by the sudden death of a star pupil. Soon afterwards, the students suffer an outbreak of mass hysteria, and begin inexplicably fainting. The close friendship between two very different girls seems to lie at the centre of the strange happenings. Drama, starring Maisie Williams. 11.25 **Film: Julie & Julia.** (2009) Biopic telling the stories of 1960s American chef Julia Child and modern-day blogger Julie Powell, who tries to emulate her heroine in the kitchen. With Meryl Streep. 1.20 **Film:** In Darkness. (2011) 3.35 This is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** (R) 6.25 **Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 **Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 **Sooty.** (R) 6.55 **Signed Stories:** Share a Story. (R) 7.00 **Super 4.** (R) 7.15 **Oddbods.** (R) 7.20 **Oddbods.** (R) 7.30 **Scrambled!** Scrambled! 7.35 **Scrambled!** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 **Scrambled!** Horrid Henry. (R) 8.10 **Scrambled!** Teen Titans Go! (R) 8.30 **Scrambled!** Bear Grylls Survival School. 9.05 **Scrambled!** Adventure Time. (R) 9.25 **ITV News.** 9.30 **Rebound.** (R) 10.25 **Guess This House.** (R) 11.25 **Judge Rinder.** (R) 12.30 **ITV News:** Weather. 12.40 **River Monsters.** (R) 1.10 **Tipping Point.** (R) 2.15 **Dance Dance Dance.** (R) 3.45 **Regional Programme:** Weather. 3.55 **ITV News:** Weather. 4.10 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** England v France (Kick-off 4.50pm). 7.00 **Ninja Warrior UK.** Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shepherd, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. 8.00 **The Voice UK.** The spinning-chair singing contest's Blind Audition phase continues into its fifth week, as coaches Will.i.am, Jennifer Hudson, Tom Jones and Gavin Rossdale hunt for the nation's next singing superstar. As ever, the auditionees are invited to perform on stage, while the all-star panellists sit with their backs to the singer, only turning their chair around to see who they have just been serenaded by if they are suitably impressed by the performer. Naturally, as the contest continues to roll on, remaining spaces on each coach's teams are running short, and competition to claim the left-over spots will be as fierce as ever. 9.30 **Through the Keyhole.** Cold Feet actor John Thomson, Coronation Street star Kym Marsh and presenter Stephen Mulhern try to guess which three stars' homes Keith Lemon has invaded. 10.30 **ITV News:** Weather. 10.45 **Film: The Bourne Supremacy.** (2004) The amnesiac assassin is framed for a botched CIA operation and faces a fight for survival as he tries to uncover his past. Action thriller sequel, with Matt Damon and Brian Cox. 12.40 **Jackpot247.** 3.00 **Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) 3.30 **ITV Nightscreen.**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.20 The King of Queens.** (R) 6.45 **The King of Queens.** (R) 7.10 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) 7.35 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) 8.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) 9.00 **Fraser.** (R) 9.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) 10.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) 10.25 **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) 10.50 **The Simpsons.** (R) 11.20 **The Simpsons.** (R) 11.50 **Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast.** (R) 12.55 **Come Dine with Me.** (R) 1.25 **Come Dine with Me.** (R) 1.55 **Come Dine with Me.** (R) 2.25 **Come Dine with Me.** (R) 2.55 **Come Dine with Me.** (R) 3.25 **A Place in the Sun:** Summer Sun. (R) 4.30 **Location, Location, Location.** (R) 5.30 **Grand Designs.** (R) 6.30 **Channel 4 News.** 7.00 **Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages.** Penelope visits North Yorkshire, England's largest county, where she samples local dialect in the remote villages of Upper Swaledale. She also takes in the sights of Cracoe, the village featured in the film Calendar Girls, and heads for the North York Moors and Goathland, where she witnesses a Viking sword dance. Plus, a trip to the failed seaside resort of Ravenscar, and a tour of an artists' retreat in Staithes. (R) 8.00 **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on a journey into their pasts via the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, which celebrates its 200th anniversary this year. Along the way, they visit the country's last surviving steam-powered textile mill, meander through the "curies", and meet acclaimed poet Simon Armitage. They also take a trip by steam train to the home of the Bronte sisters in Haworth, and are confronted by the Salts Mill after tackling the steepest lock staircase in Britain. Last in the series. (R) 9.00 **Film: A Million Ways to Die in the West.** (2014) Premiere. A timid farmer abandoned by his girlfriend is fascinated by a mysterious woman who rides into his frontier town. He tries to act the part of a gunslinging Wild West hero to impress her, only to find himself facing a showdown with her notorious outlaw husband. Western spoof, directed by and starring Seth MacFarlane. 11.15 **Film: Van Helsing.** (2004) 1.40 **The Last Leg.** (R) 2.35 **Hollyoaks.** 4.45 **Win It Cook It.** (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** 9.55 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) 10.30 **Film:** Kelly's Heroes. (1970) 1.10 **Police Interceptors.** (R) 2.10 **Police Interceptors.** (R) 3.10 **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) 4.10 **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) 5.10 **Nightmare Tenants.** Slum Landlords. (R) 6.10 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Documentary giving an insight into the world of debt collection from the perspectives of debtors, creditors and those who collect the payments. Repossession experts Mike Allonby and Terry Jones roam the streets, looking for cars belonging to people with outstanding unpaid loans, while high court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner evict a taxi driver from his home of 19 years for a debt of almost £30,000. (R) 7.05 **NCIS: Los Angeles.** The team investigates when a naval seaman and an infamous arms dealer are found dead near the Mexican border. 8.00 **NCIS.** Abby visits a pharmaceutical lab to investigate a murder case, but when armed men storm the facility and hold everyone hostage, she finds herself trapped within the building. 8.55 **5 News Weekend.** 9.00 **Football on 5: The Championship.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the latest fixtures, which included Bristol City v Rotherham United at Ashton Gate, Ipswich Town v Reading at Portman Road, and Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa at The City Ground. 10.00 **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the latest matches in Leagues One and Two, including Shrewsbury Town v Bury, and Cambridge United v Plymouth Argyle. 10.30 **Britain's Biggest Armed Robbery.** The Brinks Mat heist of 1983, the country's biggest and most notorious armed robbery, which caused the price of gold to soar and sent ripples through the criminal underworld. 11.30 **Police Interceptors: Takedown.** Vinnie Jones joins up with officers from two forces. (R) 12.00 **SuperCasino.** 3.10 **Celebrity Botched Up Bodies.** (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
7.00 **Timeshift:** Magnificent Machines – The Golden Age of the British Sports Car 8.00 **Treasures of the Indus** 9.00 **Attenborough and the Giant Egg** 10.00 **The Young Montalbano** 11.45 **Top of the Pops: 1983** 12.50 **Robert Plant @ Glastonbury** 2.00 **The Rolling Stones** at the BBC 2.45 **Jeff Lynne's ELO in Concert** 3.50 **Close** **ITV2**  
11.20 **Ninja Warrior UK** 12.20 **Take Me Out** 1.25 **You've Been Framed!** Gold 1.50 **Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) 2.50 **FYI Daily** 2.55 **Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) 3.55 **Film:** Inspector Gadget (1999) 4.55 **FYI Daily** 5.00 **Film:** Inspector Gadget (1999) 5.30 **Film:** Snow Dogs (2002) 6.30 **FYI Daily** 6.35 **Film:** Snow Dogs (2002) 7.35 **Film:** The Build of the Ring: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) 8.35 **FYI Daily** 8.40 **Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) 11.00 **Family Guy** 12.30 **American Dad!** 12.55 **Film:** Run Fat Boy Run (2007) 1.55 **FYI Daily** 2.05 **Film:** Run Fat Boy Run (2007) 2.45 **Teleshopping** 5.45 **ITV2 Nightscreen** **ITV3**  
12.00 **Film:** Carry On Jack (1963) 12.45 **Lewis** 2.50 **Wycliffe** 4.00 **Agatha Christie's Marple** 6.00 **Midsomer Murders** 8.00 **Doc Martin** 9.00 **Midsomer Murders** 11.00 **Lewis** 9.00 **Blue Murder** 2.00 **ITV3 Nightscreen** 2.30 **Teleshopping** **ITV4**  
11.00 **Counting Cars** 11.50 **Pawn Stars** 1.15 **Barcelona's European Glory** 1.30 **ITV Racing Live** from Sandown. 4.00 **Film:** Superman (1978) 5.00 **FYI Daily** 5.05 **Film:** Superman (1978) 6.55 **Mr Bean** 8.00 **Film:** Monsters 9.05 **Film:** Bullitt (1968) 10.05 **FYI Daily** 10.10 **Film:** Bullitt (1968) 11.25 **Film:** Game of Death (2010) 12.25 **FYI Daily** 12.30 **Film:** Game of Death (2010) 1.30 **Hell on Wheels** 2.25 **Tommy Cooper** 2.50 **ITV4 Nightscreen** 3.00 **Teleshopping** **E4**  
3.30 **Brooklyn Nine-Nine** 4.00 **The Big Bang Theory** 8.00 **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD** 9.00 **Film:** X-Men (2000) 11.00 **Gogglebox** 12.40 **The Inbetweeners** 1.50 **Chewing Gum** 2.25 **Virtually Famous** 3.05 **The Inbetweeners** 4.00 **Rude Tube** **Film4**  
11.00 **Millions** (2004) 1.00 **Carry On Nurse** (1959) 2.45 **The Borrowers** (1997) 4.25 **Von Ryan's Express** (1966) 6.45 **Tower Heist** (2011) 9.00 **A Good Day to Die Hard** (2013) 10.55 **Resident Evil: Extinction** (2007) 12.45 **District 9** (2009) 3.00 **Close**

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CHOICE



Caprice

**The Jump (Channel 4, 7.30pm)**  
New series. Davina McCall presents the celebrity winter sport show, with contestants Bradley Wiggins, Spencer Matthews, Robbie Fowler, Caprice, Jade Jones, Louis Smith, Kadeena Cox, Lydia Bright, Mark Dolan, Vogue Williams, Jason Robinson, Gareth Thomas, Josie Gibson and Emma Parker Bowles risking life and limb. The first challenge they face is a gruelling parallel slalom down a mountain course, with the losers of each head-to-head race facing the jump to determine which one of them will be eliminated from the contest.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Songs of Praise. **4.05** Spy in the Wild. (R) **5.05** Spy in the Wild. (R) **6.05** BBC News. **6.20** Regional Programme. **6.30** Countryfile. An episode focused on birds, in which Matt Baker visits an RSPB reserve for pink-footed geese on the Norfolk Coast and a school taking part in a bird count. Helen Skelton goes in search of flocks of starlings in Cumbria and meets an artist who paints using feather quills. Tom Hegg reports on the latest outbreak of bird flu, while Adam Henson reveals the steps he is taking to prevent the spread of the disease on his farm. Including weather for the week ahead. **7.30** Still Open All Hours. Granville opens a delivery point for internet shopping, and a particularly large order gives him an idea for how Gastric can find a way to impress Madge. Last in the series. **8.00** Call the Midwife. The government plans to close down small hospitals in favour of larger establishments. Dr Turner and Shelagh prepare for an inspection that will decide the maternity home's fate. **9.00** Apple Tree Yard. Yvonne is arrested for murder. She soon comes to realise that everything Costley told her was a lie – and that he is the only person who can keep her out of prison. Concludes tomorrow. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Gabby Logan reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Leicester City v Manchester United at the King Power Stadium and Manchester City v Swansea City at the Etihad Stadium. **11.20** NFL Live: Super Bowl 51. New England Patriots v Atlanta Falcons (Kick-off 11.30pm). Coverage of the showpiece match from NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas. **4.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **4.05** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.45** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **7.45** An Island Parish: Anguilla. (R) **8.15** The Edible Garden. (R) **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **11.45** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Netball. England v Australia (Centre-pass 1.00pm). **2.45** Nitro Athletics: Usain Bolt Takes On The World. **3.45** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.15** Ski Sunday. **6.00** Six Nations Rugby Union. John Inverdale introduces coverage from the opening weekend of this year's tournament, featuring Scotland v Ireland at Murrayfield, 2016 Grand Slam winners England v France at Twickenham and Italy v Wales at the Stadio Olimpico. **7.00** City in the Sky. Dallas Campbell and Dr Hannah Fry conclude the series by examining the process of bringing a plane safely to the ground. Hannah meets air traffic controllers at the world's busiest airport and visits a site that has seen over 2000 unscheduled landings in the last decade. Dallas sits in the cockpit of a plane heading for Paro, Bhutan, a place where only 26 pilots in the world are qualified to land. Last in the series. (R) **8.00** Dragons' Den. The panel assess the profit-making potential of a plan for teaching children languages, a security gadget for patio doors, a device for the hard of hearing and a range of soup. **9.00** Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week. Army training challenge, in which contestants must endure gruelling military-grade conditioning drills from around the world. **10.00** Live at the Apollo. Sitcom star and The Last Leg regular Josh Widdicombe welcomes Londoner Nathan Caton and Australian comic Celia Pacquola to the stage at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R) **10.45** Women's Six Nations Highlights. Highlights from this year's tournament. **11.15** Davis Cup Tennis. Canada v Great Britain. Sue Barker presents action from the concluding singles rubbers on day three of the World Group first-round tie at The Arena at TD Place, Ottawa. **12.45** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.45** Holby City. (R) **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **8.20** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.45** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.25** The Voice UK. (R) **12.55** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v Wales (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.15** The Chase. (R) **5.15** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **6.15** ITV News: Weather. **6.30** Dance Dance Dance. Alesha Dixon and Will Best host the semi-final of the celebrity dance contest. To win a place in the final, each contestant must give a solo and a duo performance, recreating dance routines made famous in music videos by artists including Rihanna, Michael Jackson and Sia. Judges Ashley Banjo, Tina Landon and Timor Steffens are on hand to decide who will be going through to the final. **8.00** Lion Country: Night and Day. New series. Cameras follow two prides of lions in their territory of Zambia's South Luangwa National Park over the course of six months. A cub's curiosity gets the better of him when it strays from the pride's territory, and becomes easy prey for leopards and hyenas. A lioness tries to rejoin a pride, but many of the males in the group are resistant to the idea. The camera crew gets closer to the big cats than they bargained for, and are forced to beat a hasty retreat. **9.00** The Good Karma Hospital. New series. Medical drama about a junior doctor who leaves the UK to start a new life in South India, and finds a new calling at a hospital run by an eccentric English ex-pat. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.15** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. (R) **11.15** Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights. **12.20** Jackpot247. **3.00** Chopping Block. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.10** The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** Film: Step Up All In. (2014) Premiere. Dance drama, starring Ryan Guzman. **5.15** Channel 4 News. **5.45** Film: Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs. (2009) Sid the sloth discovers three eggs – but when they hatch into dinosaurs, he struggles to keep them under control. The creatures' mother comes looking for her offspring and takes them and Sid to an underground world where the giant reptiles never became extinct. Sid's friends, aided by a crazed one-eyed weasel, head for this strange new land to rescue him. Animated adventure sequel, with the voices of Jon Leguizamo, Denis Leary, Ray Romano and Simon Pegg. **7.30** The Jump. New series. Davina McCall presents the celebrity winter sport show, with 14 famous faces competing in dangerous challenges, beginning with a parallel slalom race down a mountain. **9.00** Homeland. Saul ventures to Abu Dhabi, and Carrie is forced to deliver bad news. Meanwhile, Quinn suspects something is amiss. Guest starring Dominic Furness (Nurse Jackie). **10.08** Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and Jayde Adams take on Sean Lock and Joe Wilkinson. **11.00** Film: Magic Mike. (2012) A veteran male stripper teaches a young dancer the tricks of the trade, and introduces him to a hedonistic lifestyle. Comedy drama, starring Channing Tatum and Matthew McConaughey. **1.10** How to Lose Weight Well. Diet crashers Emma and Kaye have 10 days to slim down for a day at the races. Last in the series. (R) **2.05** Britain's Billionaire Immigrants. Focusing on China's elite who are obsessed with everything British. (R) **3.00** Your Face Says It All. Documentary revealing hidden secrets of the human face. (R) **3.55** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **4.10** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.35** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Seaside Antics. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.30** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **8.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Shimmer and Shine. **9.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.25** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Benefit House: Me & My 26 Kids. (R) **1.00** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **2.00** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **3.00** Film: Leap Year. (2010) Romantic comedy, starring Amy Adams and Matthew Goode. **4.50** Film: Around the World in 80 Days. (2004) Comedy adventure, starring Steve Coogan and Jackie Chan. **7.05** Film: Jackie Chan's The Medallion. (2003) An evil crime lord tries to capture a boy who has supernatural powers, but a team of international police officers is on his trail. One of the cops is killed saving the child, who resurrects him using a magical medallion. The revived detective now has superhuman abilities, which he uses to protect the youngster. Comedy adventure, with Jackie Chan, Lee Evans, Julian Sands, Claire Forlani and John Rhys-Davies. Edited for violence. Includes 5 News Update. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** When Life Goes Horribly Wrong. Memorable on-air hitches, including presenter Sarah Cawood recalling the time The National Lottery Jetset studio was invaded by Fathers for Justice protestors, Bucks Fizz star Cheryl Baker offering insight into Eurovision's most off-key moments, and veteran journalist John Stapleton opening up about the occasion The Time. The Place was taken off the air due to a demonstration. Plus, rare moments of imperfection on Lorraine, This Is Your Life and The Charlie Drake Show. Other contributors include Penny Smith, Dom Joly, Maria McElrane and Matt Johnson. **12.05** Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Hidden Killers of the Victorian Home  
**8.00** British History's Biggest Fibs with Lucy Worsley **9.00** Darcey Bussell: Looking for Margot **10.00** Film: The Past (2013) **12.05** Legends of the Deep: Deep Sea Sharks **1.00** Legends of the Deep: Giant Squid **1.45** Horizon: The Power of the Placebo **2.45** Darcey Bussell: Looking for Margot **3.45** Close  
**ITV2**  
**2.50** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **4.40** Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **7.00** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender XXL **10.30** Family Guy **12.25** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**2.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.50** Wycliffe **5.55** This Time Next Year **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** Film: Captain Corelli's Mandolin (2001) **11.30** FYI Daily **11.35** Film: Captain Corelli's Mandolin (2001) **1.05** A Touch of Frost **2.50** Wycliffe **3.45** Film: The Best House Win **5.25** On the Buses **5.55** ITV3 Nightscreen  
**ITV4**  
**2.45** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **5.00** Film: Superman (1978) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** Film: Superman (1978) **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights **10.05** Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10** Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) **12.15** Film: A Dangerous Man (2010) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20** Film: A Dangerous Man (2010) **2.10** Hell on Wheels **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**2.10** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.25** Film: Battleship (2012) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Film: This Means War (2012) **12.00** Tattoo Fixers **1.05** Gogglebox **2.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** Rubie Tube  
**Film4**  
**11.00** City of Men (2008) **1.00** Carry On Constable (1960) **2.40** Bandstand (2009) **4.50** The Jewel of the Nile (1985) **7.00** Turner & Hooch (1989) **9.00** The Purge: Anarchy (2014) **11.05** Whiteout (2009) **1.10** Viva Rival (2010) **3.10** Close

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## FILM CHOICES

### MONDAY

#### The Bucket List, Channel 5, 10.30pm

Two terminally ill cancer patients, one a wealthy tycoon, the other a penniless mechanic, resolve to enjoy the time they have left to live life to the full. While in hospital, the pair draw up a list of all the things they have always wanted to do but never found the time, before embarking on a mission to try them all. Comedy, starring Jack Nicholson. (2007)

### TUESDAY

#### Killer Assistant, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A high-profile magazine editor seemingly has the perfect life and career. However, when she takes on a new assistant, a brief affair and his clandestine plotting threatens to send the woman into a downward spiral of life-changing proportions. Thriller, starring Arienne Zucker and Brando Eaton. (2016)

### WEDNESDAY

#### Someone to Watch Over Me, BBC1, 11.45pm

A New York socialite witnesses a club owner's murder at the hands of a powerful mobster, prompting the police to assign a detective to protect her. However, when the married cop begins to fall for his glamorous charge, he faces a conflict of loyalties. Ridley Scott's romantic thriller, starring Tom Berenger. (1987)



Blood Diamond, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

### THURSDAY

#### The Vanished Family: Aurora Teagarden Mystery 4, Channel 5, 3.15pm

After an exhaustive house-hunt, crime-solving librarian Aurora finally purchases her dream home. However, as she sets about moving in, she discovers the property has a murky history, one involving the sudden disappearance of previous owners. Mystery drama, starring Candace Cameron Bure. (2016)

### FRIDAY

#### Blood Diamond, BBC1, 11.55pm

Smuggler Danny Archer ends up in prison in war-torn Sierra Leone in 1999, where he meets Solomon, a Mende fisherman separated from his family by guerrillas. Danny pledges to help the desperate man rescue his son, who has been forcibly conscripted as a child soldier, in return for a rare pink diamond. Action thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. (2006)

# Famous faces face a test on the waters

Oh to have been a fly on the wall during the meeting to set up this show...

You can imagine it – blown over by the success of Channel 4's Great Canal Journeys featuring married thespians Timothy West and Prunella Scales, not to mention ITV's Barging Round Britain with John Sergeant, those folks at Channel 5 decided they needed to get a piece of the pensionable boat trip action.

Well, you would, wouldn't you?

And if something ain't broke, there's no need to fix it, so the station decided not to tinker with the format too much. As a result they have brought in four famous faces and sent them on their way for an adventure. Hopefully anyway – otherwise it's going to be a slightly dull four-part series.

First into the fray are Debbie McGee and Nigel Havers. She's best known for being the widow of Paul Daniels, and found fame initially as his glamorous assistant (her name tended to be prefaced by the word 'lovely' back in their 1980s heyday);

these days she's a star in her own right.

Havers is, of course, that dashing actor who has graced the screen in a number of acclaimed projects, including Chariots of Fire, A Passage to India and Empire of the Sun. He even added a little bit of class to Coronation Street as charming schemer Lewis Archer.

McGee and Havers both have experience of steering boats, so should find their trip a doddle. Unfortunately, that proves to be far from the case...

Their novice neighbours, Lorraine Chase and Simon Callow, struggle too. Chase spent four years as an Emmerdale regular thanks to her role as Steph Forsythe, but is still best known for a string of adverts she made in the 1970s which used her strong cockney accent to their full.

Callow is, of course, an actor of some note, having appeared in numerous acclaimed stage roles, from Shakespeare to Beckett and beyond. He also made a big impact in Four Weddings and a Funeral, and

has numerous other film roles to his name. However, he isn't above more lowbrow pursuits – his first TV role was in the Carry On Laughing episode Orgy and Bess, although his part was eventually cut from the finished product.

The opening episode sees the quartet embark on their journey along the Kennet and Avon Canal, one of Britain's most popular waterways. They begin in Bristol, but soon end up in trouble thanks to an altercation with a moored boat.

Debbie tries to raise everyone's spirits by making them taste the fruits of her labours in the galley. However, it's the addition of some alcohol that really gets the party started.

Later, the group encounter a local artist, whose gift of a map opens up a world of canal-side entertainment, and inspires them to visit local vineyards (more booze) and call in on the Avondale singers.

Later episodes will feature a trip down the Llangollen Canal on the border between England and Wales.



Celebrity Carry on Barging, Friday, Channel 5, 8pm

# BEST OF THE REST

### MONDAY

#### SAS: Rogue Warriors

#### BBC2, 9pm

New series. Ben Macintyre uses the SAS archives to examine the history of the British Army special forces unit combining documents, unseen footage and interviews with its founding members to tell the remarkable story behind an extraordinary fighting force. In the first edition, he looks at its formation in the heat of the North African desert in 1941, when eccentric young British army officer David Archibald Stirling had a vision for a new kind of war in which the enemy was attacked from behind their own lines.

### TUESDAY

#### The Moorside

#### BBC1, 9pm

Drama telling the story of the disappearance of nine-year-old Shannon Matthews from the Moorside Estate in Dewsbury. Emotional public appeals for information from her mother Karen Matthews amount to nothing, and the community, led by Julie Bushby, stand by her and make extraordinary efforts of their own to find Shannon. Despite the support, doubts are beginning to creep in for some regarding Karen's behaviour, and friend and neighbour Natalie Brown struggles with her conscience as she becomes convinced that Karen

knows more than she is revealing. Sheridan Smith, Sian Brooke and Gemma Whelan star.

### WEDNESDAY

#### Climbing the Property Ladder

#### Channel 5, 9pm

With property shows being a firm fixture on telly schedules for years now, it's hardly surprising that more and more people are deciding to turn their hands to the risky – but often rewarding – world of property development. What is a surprise is the range of people whom this lifestyle attracts. This new series follows those attempting to buy, renovate, and sell houses for profit, including everyone from retirees to youngsters, and single mums to office workers. They include Mary, who was recently laid off and has decided to put her redundancy money and life savings into a run-down Yorkshire cottage. She has her eyes on a healthy £25,000 profit, however her project is at risk of turning into a battle of wills with her builder.

### No Offence

#### Channel 4, 9pm

After finding herself suspended

from duty, Deering goes rogue in her efforts to nail Nora. Back at the station, Lickberg tries to control the team, as they urgently intensify the manhunt for one of the Attahs' missing victims. Teegan is sent on an undercover operation and an unlikely alliance is agreed between Nora and the team, who wants to stop a Female Genital Mutilation cutter arriving on her patch. Starring Joanna Scanlan, Rakie Ayola, Sarah Solemani and Saira Choudhry.

### THURSDAY

#### After Brexit: The Battle for

#### Europe

#### BBC2, 9pm

In the wake of last year's referendum result, Britons on both sides of the Brexit debate have been discussing what leaving the European Union will mean for the UK. However, this documentary looks at the implications for the future of EU itself, which is



The Moorside, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

currently facing the biggest challenge in its 60-year history. As the BBC's Europe Editor Katya Adler points out, it's not just Britain's departure that is making waves – populist eurosceptic movements are on the rise across the continent, leading to the prospect of more countries following the UK's example and voting to leave. As Britain begins the controversial and uncertain process of withdrawing, Adler asks whether the Union can survive.

### FRIDAY

#### Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast

#### Channel 4, 8pm

You might think that good friends and good food combine to make a relaxing Friday night, and usually you'd be right. This edition of old pals Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty's culinary series, however, may prove to be contentious – for Jamie is attempting a paella, the very dish which last year saw the chef draw ire on social media from seemingly the entire population of Spain. His inclusion of chorizo proved particularly controversial, so it will be interesting to see whether the spicy sausage makes it into tonight's recipe. He's cooking the the Valencian staple with actor Martin Clunes, but will they defer to the dish's progenitors, or throw caution to the wind and end up as 'men behaving badly'?

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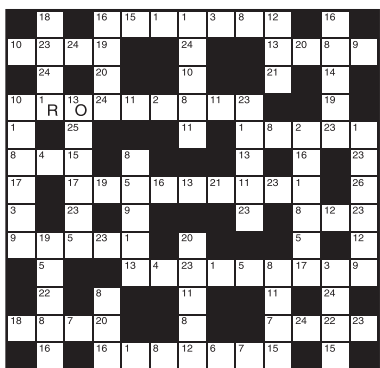
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# BRAIN GYM No.414

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

D E K N H X C Q U T W Z R  
A M V I L F G S O P Y J B

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

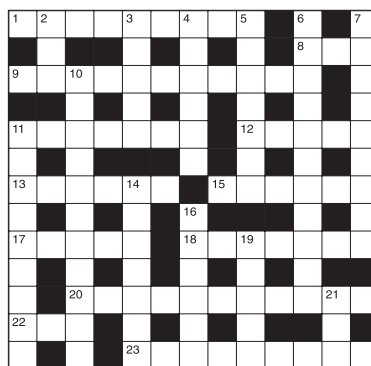
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

1. Great help, perhaps, in rapid communication (9)
8. Eggs swallowed by Croesus (3)
9. New baby for a publisher? (6,5)
11. Army unit is also included in the plan (7)
12. Knowing there's a conflict with the East (5)
13. Journey to the game (6)
15. A time in which love and pride are mingled (6)
17. We hear forty of the Romans do better (5)
18. A noted soporific (7)
20. It swims with the current! (8,3)
22. Listener among the corn (3)
23. Segregate something that may be present (6,3)

#### Down

2. Are in the ascendant for a while (3)
3. Enjoyment shown in getting us together (5)
4. Foreigners from an isle (6)
5. As he got found out he was taken prisoner (7)
6. Take evasive action, in a manner of speaking (11)
7. This time tomorrow! (9)
10. Merchants who have gone to pot? (11)
11. Mad, being had (9)
14. Take a job over to break the monotony (7)
16. Pastel composition used in the dining room (6)
19. French flower I have knowledge about (5)
21. Work discovered in the study of ergonomics (3)



### Quick Clues:

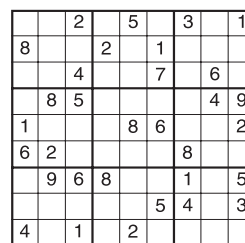
#### Across

1. Unlike (9)
8. Possess (3)
9. Name (11)
11. Clumsy persons (7)
12. Of them (5)
13. Singe (6)
15. Contort (6)
17. Get to know (5)
18. Simplest (7)
20. Wrongly (11)
22. Self (3)
23. Eye-glasses (9)

#### Down

2. Freeze (3)
3. Bird of prey (5)
4. Pass (6)
5. Chirp (7)
6. Satisfaction (11)
7. Cross (9)
10. Smothering (11)
11. Divulged (9)
14. Sneering (7)
16. Extreme fear (6)
19. Gloss (5)
21. Permit (3)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	9	6	3	8	1	4	5	2
2	3	1	7	5	4	6	9	8
8	4	5	6	9	2	7	1	3
9	6	7	2	1	5	8	3	4
5	1	3	8	4	7	2	6	9
4	8	2	9	3	6	1	7	5
3	5	4	1	6	8	9	2	7
6	7	8	5	2	9	3	4	1
1	2	9	4	7	3	5	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Ironed; 8 Evolve; 10 Secular; 11 Nodes; 12 More; 13 Thing; 17 Guise; 18 Wood; 22 Okapi; 23 Repulse; 24 Nectar; 25 Played. Down: 1 Winsome; 2 Concert; 3 Cello; 4 Evening; 5 Slide; 6 Cease; 9 Orchestra; 14 Musical; 15 Volleys; 16 Addenda; 19 Joint; 20 March; 21 Apple.  
QUICK - Across: 7 Rooted; 8 Manage; 10 Diction; 11 Craft; 12 Care; 13 Miser; 17 Delay; 18 Hose; 22 Trade; 23 Hatful; 24 Credit; 25 Crisis. Down: 1 Predict; 2 Concern; 3 Tepid; 4 Satchel; 5 Pagan; 6 Jetty; 9 Antipathy; 14 Dement; 15 Confess; 16 Recluse; 19 Stick; 20 Waver; 21 Story.

## Thinking space

## Quiz

1. With which country did Israel sign a peace treaty to end 46 years of conflict?
2. Whose poem The Waste Land was first published in 1922?
3. Which US state has the nickname the Hawkeye State?
4. What does the "c" in E=mc squared represent?
5. What name has been given to the former Labour Party HQ?
6. Which group of military leaders takes its name from the Spanish for 'council'?
7. Which member of the Monty Python team appeared in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein in 1994?
8. What is the more common term for harjan, a member of India's lowest caste?
9. What is another name for the mountain ash?
10. Which area of open downland contains Stonehenge?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Ben Travers; 2 Doppler effect;

3 Taunton; 4 Interlaken; 5 Harold II; 6 Louvre; 7 Logarithms; 8 Grapefruit, tangerine and orange; 9 Lactose; 10 Mikhail Sholokhov.

Niner: BARITONES

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6249 gives a fabric,  
67898 gives a second fabric,  
153678 gives a third fabric.



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One of the dining rooms at the restaurant/pub



The French Hen, Bromsgrove Road, Clent, near Stourbridge



The pâté was served as a slab with half a toasted baguette

# Family matters at The French Hen

**WHAT can be better than Sunday lunch with the family – especially when it's all served up in a cosy, traditional pub?**

The French Hen in Clent had been on our 'to do list' for a while now. The pub has a comfortable bar area, two spacious restaurants and a function room.

Being a Sunday afternoon, the majority of tables were filled with families and their young children, so we fitted right in. We'd never been to the pub/restaurant before but straight away we were hit with the family-friendly feel of the whole place and, after being seated, we were served very promptly by two of the small army of young waitresses.

The French Hen has a specific menu for Sundays. The Sunday selection, served from noon until 5pm, was packed with a great selection.

The menu is also incredibly well-priced with two courses costing £12.95 and three courses £14.95.

We opted to split two starters between my wife Kelly, daughter Annabelle, and myself. Pâté maison was one we went for, which

By James Driver-Fisher

was a chicken liver pâté enriched with port, brandy and hard herbs, served with fresh bread, petit leaves and house chutney. The other was garlic mushrooms with the button mushrooms sautéed with onions in a creamy white wine and garlic sauce, served with fresh bread. They were ample to say the least.

The pâté was served as a thick slab, with half a toasted baguette. It was really very tasty, rather like the expensive varieties you can buy from the supermarket.

## Flavour

There was just a hint of the port and brandy coming through, which gave it a rich flavour and, washed down with a few sips of the Rioja we had ordered, was a lovely way to start the meal. The mushroom dish was very well cooked and presented, with not too much garlic and butter.

Having finished the starters it was not long before we were presented with the mains, which was great timing for us having a young child.

A traditional Sunday dinner was all I had in my eyes so the only decision to make was to either go for the roast topside of beef, served with a Yorkshire pudding, tender leg of lamb, studded with garlic and rosemary, pork with crispy crackling, served with homemade stuffing, or roasted turkey crown or half a roasted chicken.

After deciding my daughter would probably enjoy the child's version of the roast beef – and knowing she probably wouldn't finish it all – I went for the lamb.

All the dinners came with roasted and new potatoes, and a seasonal vegetable medley, which were served in separate dishes.

It was a nice little touch and meant you could add your own rather than being presented with a huge dinner, which can sometimes be off-putting.

The lamb was very tender and the gravy it came served in was thick. All the vegetables had a slight crunch, while the roast potatoes were lovely and crispy.

Eaten with lashings of mint sauce, it was one of the better Sunday roasts I'd had in a while and I can also vouch for the beef being delicious too, after sneaking a mouthful off

my daughter's plate. For my own liking, it could possibly have been pinker in the middle.

Kelly fancied trying something a bit different from the roast – and luckily there was a menu offering just that. Tradition still eventually won the day when she chose ham, egg and chips. The hand-carved cooked ham came with peas and it was very nice. Kelly was surprised with the portion size – especially for the price – which was 'huge' and meant she struggled to finish it all. The large portions meant we simply shared an ice cream – well, we watched Annabelle finish off a children's strawberry ice cream – before getting the bill.

There is also an extensive Sunday baguette menu, which is served noon to 5pm in the bar and garden areas, for those who fancy a lighter bite.

Considering we ordered two starters, two mains, a children's meal, dessert and drink, and a bottle of red – the pint was paid for separately – the fact the bill came to a little over £50 shows how reasonably priced the food and drinks were.

Highly recommended, especially for families.

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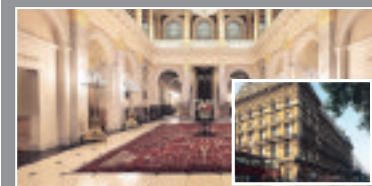
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**HALESOWEN, Blackberry Lane£625 pcm+Fees**  
Not to be missed! A lovely mid terrace in a very popular location close to Town Centre having been newly painted & new carpets upstairs comprising of: Lounge, fitted dining kitchen with appliances, 2 bedrooms & a further carpeted loft room accessed by strong & sturdy wooden ladders, refitted bathroom, central heating & double glazing, private rear garden with storage shed, on road parking, available now. EPC: D



**NETHERTON, Copse Road £595 pcm+Fees**  
A semi-detached house that has been fully refurbished to a high standard comprising of: Hallway, front lounge, large kitchen/dining area, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front & rear gardens with driveway & additional parking to rear. Solar panels installed saving up to 30% on electric bills. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Cobham Road£595 pcm+Fees**  
Well presented 2 double bedroom mid terraced house situated in this popular residential location being in walking distance of Halesowen Town Centre. This property benefits from 2 reception rooms, 1 with dining area & patio doors leading to rear garden, kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: E



**ROWLEY REGIS, The Avenue£595 pcm+Fees**  
A fantastic opportunity to rent a new build property in a very convenient location close to train & bus links. This 2 bed semi-detached is finished to an exceptional standard. The property features a spacious lounge with patio doors leading to a low maintenance garden, modern fitted kitchen with cooker/hob, downstairs w.c, 2 double bedrooms, rear garden, driveway parking, double glazing and gas central heating. MINIMUM CONTRACT OF 12 MONTHS. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street North£585 pcm+Fees**  
Extremely well presented and surprisingly large end terrace with off road parking. Within walking distance to Halesowen, local bus routes and shops, comprises 2 bedrooms, nice lounge, attractive fitted diner/kitchen with white goods excluding washing machine, utility room, house bathroom with shower, a glorious court yard garden and gated driveway. EPC: E



**HALESOWEN, Beecher Road£575 pcm+Fees**  
A very well presented semi-detached house, in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School and bus links. Featuring a large living room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: D



**WORDSWORTH, Lyndhurst Drive£550 pcm+Fees**  
Fantastic size property and a great location for local shops and transport links to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and Wordsley. This wonderfully presented semi-detached house features 2 double bedrooms, large dining kitchen, spacious lounge, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Princess Crescent£550 pcm+Fees**  
A very well presented 2nd floor flat available in this popular and convenient location in a corner cul-de-sac position, briefly comprising of a modern kitchen with a fridge and freezer, good size lounge, 2 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage & parking for 2 vehicles. EPC: C



**CRADLEY HEATH, Sidaway Street£525 pcm+Fees**  
A well presented mid terraced property within walking distance to Old Hill. This home offers 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen and utility area, downstairs shower room, 2 double bedrooms with 3rd room off master ideal for a dressing room or study, low maintenance garden, double glazing and electric heating. EPC: F



**OLDSWINFORD, Heath Lane£495 pcm+Fees**  
Ideally located in the centre of Oldswinford for shops, transport links and Mary Stevens Park. This large and spacious end terrace house features 3 good size bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, downstairs bathroom, upstairs toilet, fitted kitchen, enclosed rear garden and on road parking. EPC: E



**TIPTON, Ferguson Drive £495 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely modern 1st floor apartment, which is ideally located for Dudley and Wednesbury. This great apartment features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, 2 allocated parking spaces, communal gardens, internal viewing recommended. EPC: C



**ROWLEY REGIS, Powke Lane£495 pcm+Fees**  
Deceptively large and well worth a viewing. This 1st floor apartment features a good size double bedroom, spacious lounge, large kitchen, huge bathroom with a separate shower cubical, parking to the side of the property and also within walking distance to Blackheath Town Centre. EPC: F



**CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£435 pcm+Fees**  
A wonderfully unfurnished 2nd floor apartment within walking distance to Old Hill shops, Old Hill and Cradley Heath Train Station. This property comprises of a light and airy living room, fitted kitchen with washing machine, 1 double bedroom, and bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, communal gardens, allocated parking. EPC: G



**STOURBRIDGE, Bagley Street£425 pcm+Fees**  
Fully refurbished apartments within a stones throw of Stourbridge Town Centre and on the number 9 bus route. This stunning 1 bedroom apartment on the 1st floor features an open plan lounge/fitted kitchen, shower room, 1 double bedroom & private rear parking. Not to be missed! EPC: TBC



**WOLVERHAMPTON, Rothesay Gardens£475 pcm+Fees**  
A modern 1 bedroom 2nd floor apartment with lift access available from 07/03/17. This lovely property features a large lounge, fitted kitchen with gas hob/oven, gas central heating, secure entrance & allocated parking. The property has good access links to Wolverhampton and Birmingham. EPC: D



**WORCESTER, Martley Road£410 pcm+Fees**  
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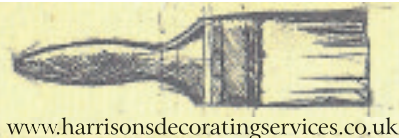
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**MAJ 300 VINTAGE AMP**, with 8 outputs, excellent condition, with 2 speakers and aluminium folding stands, £350.

**NEWMARK TWIN DJ** table top set, 2 CD players plus fader, complete in aluminium case, with sockets for earphones and mic, £250.

Telephone 01902 918187.

## sports & leisure

**SALOMON TORNADO TI 166**  
All Mountain Skis  
Lab 14 binding, unused £350.  
Impact 100 ski boots 27.5 or 8-9, unused, £100.  
07721 352459 (Oxley).

## holidays

## caravan parks

**LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME** for Sale on 5\* Park, DG, CH, bar & restaurant. Child & pet friendly. 20 acres walking woodland £24,995 inc 2017 site fees Call 01568 708 326.

## what's on

## antique fairs

**ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS FAIR**  
Kinver Community Centre DY7 6ER  
Sunday 5th February  
(also Bromsgrove every Fri)  
EST 1979, Waverley.

**NEXT BOOK FAIR**  
Sunday 19th February

Stalls available for all.  
Home made refreshments.  
Discounts offered.

**0121 550 4123**

## markets

**BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET**  
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY  
Banks' Stadium, Walsall FC  
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6  
07889 975701 All hard standing

## 3 Home & Services

## furniture

**ELECTRIC RECLINER ARM-CHAIR** light grey, very good condition £120. 01902 880450.

**JAYBE FOLDING** guest bed, headboard/mattress, used once, lifetime guarantee, £50. 01902 896665.

**LEATHER CHESTERFIELD** Settee and tub chair in Oxblood, £200 buyer to collect. 07761 249947.

**MEMORY FOAM** mattress, double, still wrapped, easy care, sell £150 ono. 07521 857432.

**THREE SEATER SETTEE**, with 2 chairs, green dralon with floral pink fabric, very good condition, £80 ono. 01902 850846.

## items for sale

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

## items wanted

**ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE CASH PAID TODAY**  
No amount is too small  
A GENUINE LADY BUYER  
All Jewellery • Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings  
• Watches • Costume Jewellery  
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings  
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items  
• Jewellery • Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings  
• Anything Old & Interesting  
**01922 495066 or 07971 783206**

## A BEST CASH PRICE

**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS**  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also D.C. Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
01384 836219 / 07891 713547  
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

**SPECTRUM GAMES** Wanted, plus any Spectrum 128k +2 computer wanted also any old Crash magazines wanted. 01902 892918.

## t.v. / home entertainment

## service

**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST**  
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc. CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

## specialists at your service

## building services

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**  
Over 35 years experience in the industry  
All aspects of building work including:  
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.  
Discounts offered.

**01902 579592 / 07837 994465**

## building supplies

**QUALITY DOORS AND HARDWOOD FLOORING** @ low prices.  
Call Arnold Floor 0121 533 5428.

## aerials

**CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS**

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

## Classified Ads

Brought to you by Express & Star

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS SATELLITE & CCTV AERIALS FITTED FROM £75**  
Work Guaranteed  
**01902 858191**  
**01384 429166**  
**01543 439095**  
**01922 716029**  
**07833 738857**

VISA

CherikaTrade.com

## alarms/security

**PREMIER ALARMS**

Supplied and Fitted £195  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!

**Call: 0121 601 9791**

## carpentry & joinery

**B & S JOINERY** Six internal pre-made doors fully fitted from £370. Free quotes call: 07858 550255.

## fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
SPECIAL OFFER  
6 x 5 Heavy Duty Lap Panels  
Fitting service available on D.I.Y.  
**£12.95 each**  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, Wbury  
[www.portwayfencing.co.uk](http://www.portwayfencing.co.uk)

## gas fitting

**READERS ARE ADVISED** To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

**house clearances**

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for household goods, furniture, etc. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

## plastering

**M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES** Home/Garden Improvements. Mark or Sara 07741 770997

**STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE**  
Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07877 262943.

## removals

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN.** Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
12 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
**07771 727119**

## roofing

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07590 465449.

## skip hire

**CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS**



"Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy!"

It definitely works for us!"

Grinsells Skip Hire.

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

## Classified Ads

Brought to you by Express & Star

**MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE**  
Save £££s  
All size skips and all areas covered.  
Some day delivery faster than a phone call!!!!  
Open 7 days a week  
**07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56**

## 4 Pets & Animals

## equestrian corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

## pets corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**TOY POODLES** 9 weeks old, microchipped, wormed to date. £350. 07572 687123.

**TWO YEAR** old pedigree toy poodle brown bitch, chipped, vaccinated, £400. 07597 537362.



**ROSEDENE RESCUE CENTRE**  
1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1LN.  
01922 627013.  
Open Monday to Saturday 11am - 5pm.  
Sundays - Bank Holidays

Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/up to date with jabs.)

Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.

**WANTED** Nice friendly dog, for company for myself and Retriever. Prefer Lab/Retriever or 1st X. Good home assured. 07970 485491.

## vets

## Express & Star

**THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS**

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

## 5 Business & Farming

## business opportunities

**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

## 6 Property

## accommodation to let

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**PENN** refurbished spacious 1 bed flat, CH, DG, £105pw. DHSS considered. 07900 156313.

**SMART ROOMS** in shared house. Netherton, from £85 pwk Single, £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

**TWO-BED HOME** Deans Road, £500pcm. Refs required. DSS accepted. Available immediately. 0121 236 9866

**WILLENHALL**, luxury room, furnished, working person. £50pw. Telephone 07401 089298.

## overseas property

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.



## properties wanted

**WE PAY 100% of purchase price** (EVERY TIME!)

**Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE**  
You agree the price, we buy the house.

- NO AGENTS FEES
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS
- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

**0800 999 999 6**

or 01384 226086 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

**CASH NOW** (subject to terms)

**FOR YOUR HOUSE**

- Legal Fees Paid
- No Fees
- Any Condition
- Guaranteed Offer
- Repossessions Stopped
- We can buy your house in 2 days

**0800 389 6788**

01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week subject to terms

**CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS**

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds** Brought to you by **Express & Star**

**ClassifiedAds** BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

**IT WORKS FOR ME**

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL **01902 319 191**

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

**CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS**

"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."

Black Country Homes

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds** Brought to you by **Express & Star**

**Home Cash Buyer**

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

**£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££**

**Houses / Land Required**

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

**Need to sell your home fast?** Purchase Agreed Within **7 DAYS**

**We can help you make a fresh start**

With solutions to suit ...

you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED. COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT. FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS. FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE. LOCAL COMPANY

**MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS**

**WHY NOT CALL US TODAY** for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

**0121 405 0797**

\*Terms and Conditions apply

OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

## 7 Jobs

## courses

**BIRMINGHAM: 21-22 JUNE**  
**WOLVERHAMPTON: 15-16 JULY**

**Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST**

NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED

**Introduction to Phlebotomy**

**TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification**

**NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

More info or to book: **www.geopace.com**

HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD

## 8 Motoring

## cars over £1500

**FORD C-MAX** 1.6 Engine - 2013 - Just 14,000 Miles, Gold/Brown Colour. Excellent Condition. Very well looked after. £6,000 07725749958

**FORD C-MAX** 2010, 1.8L D 30k miles, black, fish, parking sensors, excellent car. Well looked after. Mot 7/17, £4,250 07903 530573.



**FORD FOCUS 1596cc**

2007, 58,500 mileage, 5 door, Petrol good condition, alloy wheels. Two owners, blue tooth, Black.

**£2,200**

**07545302833**



**HONDA CIVIC 2.2CTDI**

Ex model 2006, 123,000 miles, top spec, Sat Nav, electric windows, air con, MoT, central locking, cruise control, pas, diesel, alloys, CD, quick sale.

**£1,600 ono.**

**0121 557 2706.**

**MINI COOPER**

2009, 1.6 hatch, white, low mileage (40k), 12 months MoT, chili pack, 17ins alloys, cruise control, privacy glass, one previous owner, BMW sh, 4 new tyres. £4,600 ono. 07597 097317.

**LOW MILEAGE**

**RENAULT SCENIC MPV**

2003, 1400cc, two remote keys, EW, new cam belt fitted, MoT to April 2017, just under 32,000 genuine miles, fsh.

**£600 o.n.o.**

**07518 327271.**

## employment wanted

**RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER**

Requires casual / part time work.

Own van / tools.

Telephone 01384 375672 or 07527 360303.

## drivers

**HGV 7.5T DRIVER** (Self employed)

Halesowen area. 3 days per week, possible full time. Must have driver CPC Cat Palt 07809 902734.

Accredited

**ocn**

Training

**Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST**

NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED

**Introduction to Phlebotomy**

**TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification**

**NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**SEAT IBIZA**

2013, 62 Reg., Red, full MoT, 55,000 miles, four new tyres, good condition throughout.

**£3,500 ono**

**07791 076789.**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**SKODA OCTAVIA ELEGANCE TDI**

2010 estate, diesel, 1900cc, colour beige, FSH, 1 owner, immaculate condition, 41,000 miles, 12 months MoT.

**£6,250 ovno.**

**01746 862744.**



**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXi**

60 plate, 5dr, 45k miles, 12 month MoT, 2 lady owners from new. Full service history, 16" alloys, CD player, air conditioning, cruise control, very good condition, genuine reason for sale.

**SOLD**

## cars under £1500

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED**

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**7 SEATER**

**CITROEN C8 SX HDI**

Automatic MPV, 2006/06, Mot August 2017, air con, stereo, electric sliding doors, grey, adjustable luggage rack, good runner.

**£1,195**

**SOLD**



**FORD FIESTA GHIA**

2003, 77,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, lovely condition for age, ideal first car.

**£850.**

**07958 400177.**



**FORD FIESTA ZETEC**

1.2, 5-dr hatchback, 55 reg, metallic blue, 56,000 miles, excellent condition, MoT till October.

**£1,300.**

**07749 955876.**



**JAGUAR X TYPE SE 2000**

Diesel, blue, all Jaguar extras, FSH, full MoT, 53 reg, excellent condition

**£1,195.**

**07476 370671.**

**BARGAIN**

**MAZDA 323 1600CC**

5dr hatchback, petrol, 2003 silver, only 74,000 miles, new battery, 2 former keepers, needs a little welding for MoT, excellent runner, clean and tidy inside and out.

Nice looking car worth seeing.

**£375.**

**01902 262001 or 07928 679949.**



**NISSAN MICRA**

1999, 11 months MoT, family owned since new, 57,000 miles, spotless time warp condition.

**£495.**

**Sold.**



**NISSAN NOTE**

blue, radio, CD, Bluetooth, full service history, 2008 reg 1.4 engine. MoT, alloy wheels, 118,000 miles, all electric, Air con, 2nd owner.

Very good condition.

**£1,500 ono.**

**07950 727297**

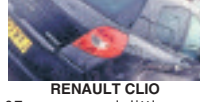
**IMMACULATE**

**PEUGEOT 207S 1.4**

3-dr, 70,000 miles, long MoT, immaculate condition, 07 reg, full SH.

**£1,495**

**07981 915188.**



**RENAULT CLIO**

07 reg., good little car, runs perfectly, very quiet, 2.0 petrol, MoT, very good condition, 3 lady owners, 2 keys, Service history, half leather inside, electric mirrors and windows, 6 speed, good 1st car, 80,000 miles from new.

**£1,400**

**07711 959120.**

**BARGAIN**

**RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE**

3Dr,

55 reg,

42,000 miles,

EW, PAS, CD,

long MoT,

**£895**

**07722 998594.**



**RENAULT CLIO CAMPUS**

2007, 47,000 miles, grey, electric windows, long MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, CD, very good condition.

**£1,299.**

**07879 403302.**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2**

5Dr, 54 Reg., long MoT,

18,000 miles only.

Must be seen.

**£1,095.**

**07400 994878.**

**IDEAL FIRST CAR**

**VAUXHALL CORSA COMFORT**

1200cc, white.

95,000 miles, 2001.

**£300.**

**01384 483625.**



**VW GOLF 1.6**

2002, 77,000 miles, red, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, long MoT, 6 CD multiplayer, works van forces sale.

**£1,250.**

**07516 659377.**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**VW POLO 1400**

Full MoT, silver, good runner / condition inside and out, radio/CD, alloys.

**£675 ono.**

**01902 862610.**

**commercial vehicles**

**PEUGEOT PARTNER** diesel Van, 2003, 10 months MoT, well maintained, company owned. £725. 07397 956377.

**motorbikes**

**LAMBRETTA Li 125**

1962, fully rebuilt, very good condition, many modifications. MoT'd. Offers around £4,000. 01562 746638 / 07890 316241.

**scrap vehicles**

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT**

Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available 0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Oldbury Area.

**vehicles wanted**

**alan reed cars**

Used cars wanted for cash. Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.

**01562 711083 / 07631 245313**

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

## 9 Local Information

## public &amp; legal notices

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

**INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**

**IN BANKRUPTCY STOURBRIDGE COUNTY COURT**

**NO 1903 of 1993 RE: SIMON PETER DARBY**

A Key Account Manager, who at the date of the bankruptcy order 30/10/1998, residing at 53 Foxhollies Drive, Halesowen, B63 3XE. D.O.B: 22 October 1955

NOTE: the above-named was discharged from the proceedings and may no longer have a connection with the address listed.

I intend to pay within four months from 24th February 2017 (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 2.97 p/c.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by 24th February 2017 (being last day of proving) otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37).

Alternatively, you can contact my office at the address below to supply a form.

**D Gibson, Official Receiver and trustee, LTAD, PO Box 4376, Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff CF14 8JX. Tel: 029 2038 0178 e-mail: RTLU.SouthWest@insolvency.gsi.gov.uk**

**REFINED LADY 60's**

Tall, slim, considered attractive with a very GSOH, used to the finer things in life, WLTm similar male 60's, must be tall, slim and solvent.

**Box Number P20691, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**WIDOW LATE 70'S**

WLTm any ladies in similar situation for possible outings or even just a cup of tea and a chat.

**Box Number P20684, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**WIDOW LATE 70'S**

WLTm any ladies in similar situation for possible outings or even just a cup of tea and a chat.

**Box Number P20695, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**WITHYMOOR COLTS**

Charter Standard Community Status Club.

All Managers minimum FA Level 1 and CRC Checked.

U12's West are looking for 2 defence / midfield players.

Please call Stuart

**07932 383597.**

**general**

**MALE, 61**

Very caring, sincere, loving and easy going WLTm someone similar

**Box Number P20693, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**MALE, 62**

Professional, slim, and attractive.

Is there an intelligent, slim/medium build lady out there, who would like to relax and chat over a few glasses of wine and see how things go.

Photo please (returned).

**Box Number P20696, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**PLEASANT, CHEERFUL NICE PERSONALITY**

GSOH, 57 year old chap, slight disability would love the opportunity to meet nice, decent Female for Friendship possible relationship.

**Box Number P20685, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**REFINED LADY 60's**

Tall, slim, considered attractive with a very GSOH, used to the finer things in life, WLTm similar male 60's, must be tall, slim and solvent.

**Box Number P20691, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

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Please call Stuart

**07932 383597.**

**general**

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



# Updates for the Toyota Auris range

By James Parker

Toyota has increased the appeal of the Auris range of hatchbacks and wagons to meet the needs of more customers, offering new and revised diesel, petrol and hybrid powertrains, updated equipment specifications and advanced safety equipment.

In 2010 Toyota launched the original Auris Hybrid, becoming the first and only manufacturer to offer a choice of three powertrains in the compact/family car market.

Today, with only limited and more expensive competition, the extensive Auris range remains a unique proposition.

### Mainstream

All versions of Auris – hatchback, hybrid and the Touring Sports wagon – continue to be built by Toyota Manufacturing UK at its Burnaston plant, near Derby.

Toyota's full hybrid technology has become established as a mainstream powertrain choice, with Auris Hybrid's smooth, relaxed and stress-free driving proving increasingly popular with compact car customers.

The hybrid model accounts for more than 50 per cent of all Auris sales in western Europe, a share that's expected to increase over the next few years. Auris attracts more sales than any other hybrid on the market.

The current Auris range reflects the changes in this highly competitive market and feedback from Toyota customers, with



The dashboard has been redesigned with quality trims



### Customers wanted change in design

significant improvements in five key areas: design, sensory quality, the hybrid model, safety and powertrains.

In 2015 an all-new 1.2-litre direct injection turbo charged engine joined the established petrol line-up. At the same time, a new 1.6-litre D-4D was added and the 1.4-litre

D-4D was substantially upgraded to give best-in-class CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the 90bhp power category. Every engine in the range meets Euro 6 emissions regulations.

The refreshed front and rear exterior styling gives Auris a more prestigious and sophisticated road presence.



### The refreshed front and rear exterior styling gives Auris a more prestigious road presence

On board, the sensory quality of the cabin has been significantly raised with a redesigned dashboard, premium quality trims and surface finishes and a 4.2-inch colour TFT multi-information screen (on all hybrids and grades above Active).

The Toyota Auris further benefits from suspension and steering revisions to improve ride comfort, handling and driver involvement.

Numerous measures have also been introduced to reduce NVH transmitted into the cabin.

VIRTUAL

Express & Star

MOTORSHOW

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST MANUFACTURER & DEALER OFFERS BY VISITING OUR SHOW...

REVIEW YOUR NEW CAR BY VIDEO BEFORE YOU TEST DRIVE!

DRIVING EXPERIENCE - COST OF OWNERSHIP - DESIGN & BUILD - RANGE

> VIDEO REVIEWS > DEALERSHIP INFORMATION

[expressandstar.com/drivetime](http://expressandstar.com/drivetime)

Express Repairs for Minor Accident Damage

✓ Bumper scuffs

✓ Kerbed alloys

✓ Paintwork scratches

✓ Dented panels

Local: 01384 429568

Mobile: 07500 858428

Email us: [halesowen.stourbridge@chipsaway.co.uk](mailto:halesowen.stourbridge@chipsaway.co.uk)

[www.chipsawayhalesowenandstourbridge.co.uk](http://www.chipsawayhalesowenandstourbridge.co.uk)

Visit us: Unit 9 Lye Valley Industrial Estate, Bromley Street, Lye DY9 8HX

ChipsAway

Scratches and scuffs won't dent your pocket

Free Estimates

Lifetime Guarantee

Most Repairs Completed in One Day





The Vignale makeover has added numerous features to the Kuga's exterior

# Latest addition to Ford's luxury spin-off brand

By Simon Davis

The Kuga Vignale is the fourth car to be released under Ford's new flagship brand, following the Mondeo Vignale, the S-Max Vignale and the new Edge Vignale.

In an attempt to move the C-segment SUV towards the more premium end of the market, Ford has plied the Kuga Vignale with a number of new features, and a higher level of standard equipment – including the latest Sync 3 infotainment system.

There are four engine options available with the new Kuga Vignale – two petrols and two diesels. Ford's 1.5-litre EcoBoost petrol engine can be specified with either 148bhp or 180bhp, while the 2.0-litre TDCi diesel is available with 148bhp or 178bhp. Our test car was fitted with the more powerful diesel unit, which was paired with Ford's Powershift automatic transmission and all-wheel drive.

The Vignale makeover has added numerous features to the Kuga's exterior – including chintzy 19-inch polished alloy wheels, plenty of chrome, and Vignale's signature hexagonal grille.

The Kuga's cabin has also been worked on. The seats have been upholstered in quilted leather, and there's plenty of leather around the dashboard and door panels. In our test car, the seats were finished in Ford's signature Cashmere colour – a sort of light cream shade – which looked very smart indeed. There are still a couple of noticeable cheap plastics that can



**Vignale has chintzy 19-inch polished alloy wheels**

be seen but on the whole, the Kuga's interior works nicely from an aesthetic point of view.

Comfort-wise, the Kuga Vignale won't give you many reasons to moan. The quilted leather seats are comfortable, although they could provide slightly more lateral support, and offer plenty of adjustability to make finding the correct driving position a breeze.

The Kuga Vignale's five-seat layout offers plenty of room for passengers in both the front and the back. Headspace is plentiful throughout the cabin, and rear passengers won't feel shortchanged when it comes to legroom.

In terms of boot space, the Kuga Vignale manages a decent 406 litres of storage capacity. Folding the rear seats down will extend this to 1,603 litres. As part of the Vignale treatment, Ford has also given the Kuga a hands-free tailgate. By simply waving your foot under the rear bumper, the boot will pop open – provided you have the car keys in your pocket.

Dynamically, the Kuga offers a rather pleasing drive. Sure, it's not the most exciting driving experience in the world, but it has plenty of grip through the corners and the steering is well weighted and provides a good amount of feedback. It rides in a comfortable manner thanks to a softer suspension set-up, although this does give way to a noticeable amount of body roll when cornering enthusiastically.

Out on the motorway, the Kuga Vignale makes for a rather fantastic mile cruncher. Road and wind noise aren't terribly intrusive, and the 2.0-litre diesel engine accelerates smoothly and fairly quietly. As mentioned earlier, the cabin is an incredibly comfortable place to be, which means covering long distances in the Kuga is a far from exhausting experience.

While the Kuga isn't exactly a small car, its size shouldn't prove to be too much of a problem when it comes to driving in an urban environment. Thanks to decent visibility out of the cabin and the addition of Ford's Perpendicular Parking system – which actually parks the car for you – you should never have too much trouble fitting the Kuga into a space.

Prices for the Kuga Vignale begin at £30,795 – which is fairly pricey for a C-segment SUV adorned with the Blue Oval. That said though, you do get a large amount of kit for your money. Ford throws in its new Sync 3 infotainment system as standard, which incorporates satellite navigation, Apple Car Play and Android Auto, DAB radio, and Bluetooth connectivity to name a few features. You can also give the system voice commands such as "I need petrol" to inform the navigation to direct you to the closest petrol station.

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Anaesh Patel with New Zealand Test-playing batsman Ross Taylor



Worcs batting coach Ron Headley has been an influence



Anaesh runs shoulders with legendary West Indian fast bowler Michael Holding



The teenager with bowling coach Kevin Lyons from Glamorgan

# Cricket prospect aims to have batsmen in a spin

**A CRICKETING** prospect from Walsall is spinning his way to India after landing a scholarship experience – and will bring his talent to the Birmingham League next season.

Anaesh Patel is one of just three nationwide winners who will be jetting over to Asia in March after success in the Southall Travel Spin Scholarship scheme.

The competition, held for promising spinners between the ages of 18 and 21 and not contracted to a First Class county outfit, was held at the Leicestershire CCC Indoor Cricket Centre.

And talented 21-year-old Patel, who got into the sport as a youngster with the help of a 'cricket-crazy' father, wants to make a splash in India before returning and unleashing his skills on the local scene.

## Settled

The young hopeful has featured for a host of local sides in his junior years, cutting his teeth with Wolverhampton, Walsall, West Bromwich Dartmouth, Staffordshire under-13s and Worcestershire under-17s.

As an 18-year-old he left for Cardiff to study mathematics at university, where he featured for Cardiff Cricket Club in the South Wales Premier League.

Now studying risk management in Leicestershire and commuting from home, Patel is settled and ready to return to the West Midlands scene for the 2017 season – after he enjoys an all-expenses paid week-long spin scholarship in Mumbai.

On winning the event – sponsored by Southall

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Lewis Cox

***"It's important to spin the ball and make the batsman drive and also to have confidence in your bowling."***

Travels and Club Cricket Conference – Patel said: "I am over the moon to have won the award especially as it was a national competition."

"I am really looking forward to visiting India and gaining further experience on sub-continent pitches. I would like to thank to my bowling coach Kevin Lyons (Glamorgan CCC) and batting coach Ron Headley for the many hours they have spent developing my bowling and batting skills."

"It goes without saying that without the support of my parents this victory would not have been possible."

As well as mixing it with the likes of experienced coach Lyons in Wales and former West Indies star Headley (Worcestershire batting coach), Patel has been able to rub shoulders with the likes of New Zealand Test players Tom Latham and Ross Taylor and West Indian great fast bowler Michael Holding.

Headley arranged the surprise visit of legendary paceman Holding, nicknamed 'Whispering Death',

after Patel and his young team-mates had been wowed by the 2010 film 'Fire in Babylon' – an ode to when West Indies dominated world cricket.

He was also invited to pit his wits against the Black Caps stars, with Patel bowling at Latham, Taylor and co in a star-studded net session.

Patel's dad Naresh, a Level 2 ECB qualified cricket coach, explained how his son would become transfixed with the game at an early age – watching stars on the television and trying to recreate scenes in the house, much to the annoyance of his wife.

"We never pushed him but he was always into it and enjoyed it," said Naresh.

"He's worked hard in everything he has done and cricket is the same."

## Surreal

"We're already looking for a local team for Anaesh to play with next season after the trip to Mumbai. It will be his first time out there and to go on a scholarship there will be amazing for him."

Anaesh hopes to still make the grade in professional cricket, citing his risk management degree as an option to fall back on.

"Initially I wanted to be a batsman, but soon noticed that I could turn the ball so I was encouraged to bowl leg spin and have never looked back," said the youngster.

"I really couldn't believe it that I had won. It was totally surreal and I am really looking forward to going to India."

"I think it's important to spin the ball and always make the batsman drive and also to have confidence in your bowling and skill levels."



Anaesh has also had the chance to meet New Zealand batsman Tom Latham



Anaesh, his father and brother with 'Whispering Death', aka West Indian paceman Holding





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## Business as usual, says owner Lynch

HALESOWEN Town owner Steve Lynch insists the FA charges facing both himself and the club will not lead to a reduction in this season's playing budget.

Lynch and the Yeltz have been charged with 12 separate breaches of the FA rules, the vast majority of which concern the owner's involvement with the now defunct Nottinghamshire-based club Eastwood Town.

It is alleged Lynch held an interest in both clubs at the same time, which is against FA regulations. Other charges centre around a loan agreement in 2012 and the club's failure to provide accounts for the period between October 2011 and March 2013.

In a statement, Lynch confirmed he had asked for a personal hearing and added: "From my point of view, I'd rather the issue was just with me and the club wasn't involved. We will do everything we can to work with the FA about the matter."

"I also want to stress to the fans that this has nothing to do with our plans this season and rumours that our budget has been cut recently because of this issue are totally untrue."

Lynch, a former coach operator, took control of the Yeltz in May 2011. He then completed a takeover of Eastwood in October of that year.

It is understood the FA conducted an investigation into the matter during 2014, though why it has taken them a further two-and-a-half years to bring charges – and what punishment Lynch or the club face if they are upheld – remains unclear at this stage.

## Dunkley double gives Yeltz more breathing space

**Halesowen 4 Mickleover Sports 2**  
HALESOWEN hero Tristan Dunkley fired two goals to give Yeltz breathing space from the Evo-Stik Northern Premier danger-zone.

Mickleover have shipped 19 goals in a torrid run of six straight defeats and made a dreadful start when Halesowen's Lee Chilton steered home a loose ball from Matt Birley's first minute shot. A deflected Birley shot then struck the bar before Mickleover enjoyed a good spell either side of the interval.

Pressure told as Tyler Blake equalised in the 59th minute. But Yeltz regained the lead a minute later as Birley teed up Dunkley.

Platt made further excellent reflex saves to keep out efforts from Mickleover's McGrath and Blake before Dunkley met Ethan Delaney's cross and turned superbly on the edge of the penalty area to fire in his second after 75 minutes.

Substitute Delaney controlled Birley's 89th minute free-kick and slammed home Halesowen's fourth goal but Mickleover had the final say with Blake completing a brace.

## Hero Luke returns to home paddock

LIFE after Priory Park Boxing Club begins with a fight date at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday March 4 for hometown hero Luke Paddock and Ricky Summers.

The pro section at Priory Park has been dissolved going into the new year as the gym focuses on its amateurs.

That left Paddock, from Bloxwich, and Tipton's Summers without a corner. Summers has signed a management deal with Errol Johnson, with Paddock on his own turf topping the No Guts, No Glory bill in an eight-rounder.

The former Midlands super lightweight champion, aged 25, is chasing a rematch with nemesis

### Boxing

Andy Keates, who has twice failed in steps up to the English title, for those area honours.

Summers was knocking on the door of national honours at light heavyweight at the start of last year, but a stop-start 2016 halted his progress. The 29-year-old has now taken ex-pro Richard Ghent as his main coach and will train out of Ghent's RG Box Fit base in Bilston.

Also on the card are the undefeated Tom Stokes, from West Bromwich, Manny 'Pac Man' Zaber, of Old Hill and Wolverhampton's Kyle

Williams, 24. Johnson also bloods two new debutants, Lauren Johnson, also from Wolverhampton and West Bromwich's Dwain Grant.

Now 32, 'the Black Widow' is coming into the pro game as a middleweight after learning her craft at the Wodensborough and Walsall Wood clubs. Grant, meanwhile, nicknamed 'Cheeky', could be a surprise package, coming from the unlicensed circuit.

The card is completed by heavyweight Dilly Singh, a prospect from Coventry with two points wins to his credit, and Brummie bantamweight Ijaz Ahmed. Tickets are £30 and £60 ringside on 0845 111 2900.

## Clarke has ex-pro Melvin in his corner

HALESOWEN'S Lennox Clarke has teamed up with a former champion to get him on the fast track to titles this year.

The unbeaten 25-year-old super middleweight continues to keep busy with an eight-round contest at Walsall Football Club on February 17.

He tops a four-fight dinner 'Battle-ground' show in the Stadium Suite at the Banks's, staged by Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing.

And Clarke might have a few more tricks up his sleeve, after taking on ex-pro Malcolm Melvin as his new coach. Johnson still serves as his manager.

Brummie Melvin, who turns on 50 on Sunday, won a Midlands super lightweight belt outright and also challenged for British, Commonwealth and WBF world honours.

He's been working with Clarke, who came into the pro game in November 2013 with just seven bouts of unlicensed boxing experience, at his Acocks Green gym.

'Dangerous' has 14 wins from 14 attempts with six TKOs, four in the first round and two in the second. He now wants to become only the fifth man to halt 28-year-old Pole Bartlomiej Grafka in 47 attempts. Clarke is looking to make a statement against Grafka and move into position to face English champion Jahmaine Smyle later in the year.

Three further contests support him at the Banks's featuring Brad Foster, 19, from Lichfield, who is signed to a deal with Frank Warren, West Bromwich's Joshua Stokes, also 19, who is punching for pay for the first time and Conor Parker, a super lightweight from Swadincote, Derbyshire.

Tickets are £35 standard or £60 VIP with a two-course meal. Call 01922 651 414, extension 416.

## Barcelos scourge of the Glassboys

**Stourbridge 1 Grantham 4**  
FELIPE Barcelos was the scourge of the Glassboys again as the Brazilian helped himself to a hat-trick in a 4-1 Integro League Cup win on Monday night.

Barcelos also hit a treble against Stourbridge while at Oxford City in 2011.

Luke Benbow scored for Glassboys.

**Sutton Coldfield 4 Stourbridge 1**  
BOSS Gary Hackett vowed to give his players "the benefit of the doubt" after their long unbeaten league run was ended by struggling Sutton on Saturday.

Jordan Archer's effort was mere consolation after goals from Sean Geddes and a David Howarth hat-trick.

# DESERVED WIN FOR OLD HALES

**Sandbach 22 Old Halesonians 33**  
**THE Hales changing room was in sombre but positive mood in this must-win fixture in Cheshire – and they got off to a perfect start with a try from fly half Chris Hooper.**

Winger Luke Smith sprinted 60 metres for a try, converted by Ian Briggs, who then converted Jay Reid's try for a 19-0 advantage.

Sandbach came back again and although the Hales front row fought hard the home pack started to dominate up front.

The pressure earned them a penalty when Clayton received a yellow for offside, and they converted to get on the scoresheet.

Both sides battled for possession, Clayton returned to the field but left shortly after with a ripped bicep which will keep him out for some time. Replacement Joe Collingham made an immediate impact with a try, converted by Briggs and Hales were 26-3 to the good at half-time.

### Fightback

The second half saw Sandbach trying to mount a fightback but Hooper put paid to this by gathering the ball to release Collingham to Ben Barkley who broke through for a try, converted by Hooper.

Hales were then under pressure in the pack, conceding a penalty try for collapsing a scrum. With yellow cards for prop Butler and second row Sawyer, Hales then lost Collingham with injury and were left with 12 players for a short period. The pressure from Sandbach told as they used the extra players to score an unconverted try.

However, the Hales numbers and injuries took their toll and Sandbach fought to the end for another converted try.

Hales deserved this much-needed win and now have a break before their next league game at home to joint league leaders Sheffield on February 11, kick off 2.15 pm.

The second team's match against Luctonians was postponed, but the thirds came back from a 19-0 deficit to beat a strong Bournville seconds 22-19.

Points came courtesy of tries from Dave Hunt, Jon Harris (2) and Steve Deakin and a conversion by Matt Wagstaff.

## Brilliant run of form continues



Old Halesonians under-16s in action during their latest encounter against Edwardians

**Edwardians 8 Old Halesonians u-16s 34**  
OLD Halesonians under-16s continued their brilliant run of form which has seen them win eight of their nine games this season.

In a game scrappy game which saw five yellow cards and one red, Old Hales were on top for most of the game.

The visitors scored first with Oscar Crombe powering over from a ruck five metres out. Will Hymmer quickly scored the second which was confidently converted by Jack Law.

Edwardians came back with a try and penalty in short order and by the half-time whistle both sides' number 8s had spent time in the

sin bin. Hales held a 12-8 lead at the interval. They started just as strongly in the second half with Finn Bridgewater coming on to replace an injured Tom King.

He quickly gathered the ball to score, Law again making the conversion.

Trues began to flow with Alessi Knight managing a well-worked score in the corner and Bridgewater scoring his second of the game.

Matt Dwyer scored the final try of the match to secure a well-deserved 34-8 win.

Coach John Wragg said: "A huge well done to the lads, it was a hard game with a high penalty count."

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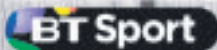


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